DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 330 975 CG 023 318

AUTHOR Herzog, A. Regula; And Others
TITLE High School Seniors' Preferences for Sharing Work and Family Responsibilities between Husband and Wife. Monitoring the Future. Occasional Paper Series, Paper 3.
INSTITUTION Michigan Univ., Ann Arbor. Inst. for Social Research.
PUB DATE 79
NOTE 70p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Family Life; *Family Structure; High Schools; *High School Seniors; Life Style; *Marriage; National Surveys; Spouses; *Student Attitudes; *Trend Analysis; *Values
IDENTIFIERS *Division of Labor (Household); Monitoring the Future

ABSTRACT

In order to describe in detail adolescents' preferences for the division of labor between husband and wife, including the flexibility inherent in the various alternatives, to assess changes in these preferences over recent years, and to explore potential correlates, data from the Monitoring the Future Survey, a large annual survey of high school seniors, were examined. High school seniors (N=3,000) rated their preferences for the allocation of work and family duties within their own prospective marriages. The results indicated that many high school seniors favored half-time or full-time work for wives without children. The majority preferred mothers of preschool children to stay home, although half-time work was acceptable to many. Virtually all seniors viewed less than full-time employment by the husband as unacceptable. With regard to child care and housework, most seniors preferred equal sharing between the spouses. A comparison of four senior classes revealed a slight trend from 1976 to 1979 toward increased sharing of duties. The results suggest that preferences toward sharing of responsibilities depends critically on the particular responsibility involved, the division of the other responsibilities the couple has to meet, and the distinction between categorizing an arrangement as desirable versus merely acceptable. (Tables, figures and references are included; research design and procedures, and item wordings are appended.) (Author/BHK)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED330975

monitoring **the future**

occasional paper series

paper 3

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS' PREFERENCES FOR SHARING WORK AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE

A. Regula Herzog
Jerald G. Bachman
Lloyd D. Johnston

CG023318

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

J. G. Bachman

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of the Lifestyles and Values of Youth

As its title suggests, this study is intended to assess the changing lifestyles, values, and preferences of American youth on a continuing basis. Each year since 1975 about 17,000 seniors have participated in the annual survey, which is conducted in some 130 high schools nationwide. In addition, subsamples of seniors from previously participating classes receive follow-up questionnaires by mail each year.

This Occasional Paper Series is intended to disseminate a variety of products from the study, including pre-publication (and somewhat more detailed) versions of journal articles, other substantive articles, and methodological papers.

A full listing of occasional papers and other study reports is available from Monitoring the Future, Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS' PREFERENCES FOR SHARING WORK AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE

Monitoring the Future Occasional Paper 3

A. Regula Herzog
Jerald G. Bachman
Lloyd D. Johnston

Institute for Social Research
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

1979

CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
METHOD	4
RESULTS	7
Preferences for Division of Labor	7
Division of Paid Work	7
Division of Child Care	13
Division of Housework	15
Trends in the Preferences for the Division of Family Responsibilities: 1976 through 1979	16
Correlates of Preferences	16
DISCUSSION	17
How Strong is the Preference for Egalitarian Division of Labor?	17
Is There Any Support for Sex Role Reversal?	18
The Male Role and the Female Role	19
Effect of Children on Employment Preferences	19
Sex Differences in Preference Patterns	20
Other Correlates of Preference Patterns	20
Concluding Remarks: The Need for More Refined Assessment of Sex Role Preferences	21
TABLES AND FIGURES	23
APPENDIX A: Research Design and Procedures	49
APPENDIX B: Item Wordings	53
REFERENCES	55

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1.	Numbers of Arrangements Rated as Desirable, as Acceptable, as Somewhat Acceptable, and as Not at all Acceptable (1979 Data)	24
2.	Combinations of Arrangements Rated as Desirable or Acceptable (1979 Data)	27
3.	Percent Distributions for Division-of-Responsibility Variables, for Total Sample of 1979, and Separate for Males and Females	30
4.	Response Distributions for Sex Role-Related Attitude Items (1979 Data)	33
5.	Trends in Mean Preferences for Division-of-Responsibilities 1976-1979	35
6.	Relationships Between Division-of-Responsibilities Variables and Correlates (1976-1979 Data)	37
7.	Correlations Between Division-of-Responsibilities Variables and Sex of Respondents (1979 Data)	42

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.	Preferred Division of Paid Work (No Children)	43
2.	Preferred Division of Paid Work (Preschool Children)	44
3.	Preferred Division of Child Care (Husband Employed Full-Time)	45
4.	Preferred Division of Child Care (Husband and Wife Employed Full-Time)	46
5.	Preferred Division of Housework (Husband Employed Full-Time)	47
6.	Preferred Division of Housework (Husband and Wife Employed Full-Time)	48

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to Deborah H. Poinier, whose assistance on an earlier version of this paper included data analysis, graphics preparation, and table development, and Pamela R. E. Kittel, for analysis and graphics work, editing, and supervision of manuscript preparation for this revised version. The authors also thank J. H. Pleck for participating in designing the questionnaire items and commenting on an earlier draft of the paper, and G. L. Staines and A. D. Thornton for their helpful comments.

ABSTRACT

A large national sample of high school seniors rated their preferences for the allocation of work and family duties within their own prospective marriages. The results indicate that many seniors favor half-time or full-time work for wives without children. On the other hand, the majority prefer that the mother of preschool children stay home, although half-time work is acceptable to many. Respondents who are male, or white, or did not have a working mother themselves are somewhat more conservative on these issues. Virtually all seniors view less than full-time employment by the husband as unacceptable. With regard to child care and housework, most seniors prefer equal sharing between the spouses. A comparison of four senior classes reveals a slight trend from 1976 to 1979 toward increased sharing of duties.

INTRODUCTION

The term "sex role" is used to denote a wide range of normative and behavioral differences between the sexes. Among the core differences are those involving the division of work and family responsibilities between husband and wife. Historically, this division of responsibilities emerged during industrialization, when production was moved out of the home and into the factories. While women stayed home and attended to children and housework, men followed the opportunities for paid work and began to specialize more exclusively in production. This pattern was described by Parsons and Bales (1955) as the basic role structure of the family, according to which the husband is the task-oriented leader and the wife the emotional caretaker of the family members.

That this role structure is not inherent in the family per se but rather reflects the effect of certain historical constellations has been argued by Young and Willmott (1973) who describe a more integrated pattern of work between husband and wife for the pre-industrialized society. Working in close proximity, both partners were then involved in productive as well as maintenance tasks. The historical relativity of sex-segregated role structure is further documented by the recent changes in sex roles. Most notable among these is the increasing number of gainfully employed married women (Treiman & Terrell, 1975; U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1976). During the 1950's and the 1960's this increase consisted primarily of middle-aged women without children at home; in the seventies the large part was accounted for by younger women with preschool children (Bednarzik & Klein, 1977; Farkas, 1977). While much of the earlier research suggested that the wife's participation in the work force is associated with increased involvement of the husband in housework and child care (Blood & Hamblin, 1958; Blood & Wolfe, 1960; Holmstrom, 1972; Weil, 1961), more recent studies relying on the time budget method for assessing housework and child care have called this conclusion into question (Meissner, Humphreys, Meis, & Scheu, 1975; Robinson, 1977). These studies tend to show that there is very little difference between the involvement of husbands of working and non-working wives. Whatever the exact level of change in the husband's role may turn out to be, it is clear that it is much less extensive than the change in the wife's role.

In discussing these various forms of division of family responsibilities, it appears useful to view the family as a unit faced with a set of tasks all of which are relevant for maintaining the physical and psychological well-being of its members (Ericksen, Yancey, & Ericksen, 1979; Pleck, 1977). Historically, different solutions for allocation of these tasks have emerged, some of them more sex-segregated, some more shared. At present, we seem to be witnessing a trend towards sharing of duties between husband and wife, although the trend is more adequately described as reflecting some involvement of each partner in the other's sphere rather than equal sharing of major tasks (Young & Willmott, 1973). Furthermore, the degree of sharing is more pronounced for the work role than for the family roles.

Within the adult population, these trends toward more egalitarian division of labor appear to be paralleled by attitudinal changes (Mason, Czajka, & Arber, 1976; Thornton & Freedman, 1979). But what are the attitudes of young people who have not yet entered marital and parental roles? With what expectations do they approach these roles? And how flexible are their expectations? This latter point is particularly critical in a time of change when partners are more likely to bring different expectations into their marriage, and flexibility may critically facilitate their negotiation process. The evidence on all these questions is incomplete and inconsistent; some investigators have observed trends towards egalitarian attitudes among college students (Bayer, 1975; Parelius, 1975), but others have reported considerable conservatism among high school students, and in some instances also among college students (Angrist, Mickelsen, & Penna, 1977; Christensen, 1961; Dunn, 1960; Nelson & Goldman, 1969; Osmond & Martin, 1975; Payne, 1956). Many of the latter studies however, suffer from methodological limitations such as old and possibly obsolete data, use of local samples of students, or question formats not detailed enough to enable a careful analysis of the range of possible attitudes.

Naturally, the attitudes of individuals are likely to vary, apart from the aggregate changes over time. According to a socialization perspective, the social environment encountered during childhood and adolescence constitutes an important influence on subsequent expectations and aspirations. For example, black women traditionally have been involved in the labor force at higher percentages than have white women, and the presence of preschool children has not served as much as a barrier to their employment as it has in the white community (Bowen & Finegan, 1969; Scanzoni, 1971; Sweet, 1973). Also, black couples are reported as more egalitarian in the division of housework (Ericksen, Yancey, & Ericksen, 1979; but for a contrasting finding see Blood & Wolfe, 1960) and in decision making (Scanzoni, 1971; Willie & Greenblatt, 1978). Leaving aside the issue of how these constellations in family and cultural background get transmitted, we might predict black adolescents to be more supportive of shared family responsibilities than whites.

The prediction from socioeconomic status is somewhat less straightforward. On one hand, support for less traditional sex roles has been concentrated among the higher socioeconomic and particularly among the more highly educated strata (Mason & Bumpass, 1975; Thornton & Freedman, 1979); and more highly educated women have been more likely to enter the labor force (Bowen & Finegan, 1969; Sweet, 1973). On the other hand, husbands in the higher job echelons and higher income brackets are less likely to have a working wife (Kreps, 1971), they experience more work demands that interfere with their involvement in housework and child care (Blood & Wolfe, 1960), and they have more marital power to resist such involvement (Ericksen, et al., 1979) than husbands in lower income brackets. In a study of approximately 250 couples, upper- and middle-class respondents reported considerable sharing of roles and decision-making, while lower-class respondents described more sex-segregated patterns (Rainwater, 1965). In sum, it is not entirely clear how the family of higher socioeconomic level differs from the lower level family regarding sex role socialization it provides for its offspring.

The sex-role relevant climate of a family can be specified better if direct measures of the hypothesized mediators are available. One such example is the model set by a working mother. As reviewed by Hoffman and Nye (1974), the positive effects on daughters of having had a working mother include higher than

average career aspirations, non-traditional sex role concepts, greater approval for employment by mothers of young children, and a higher evaluation of female competence. However, some have suggested that the effect of a mother's work may interact with her own orientations towards her work and with the nature of her relationship with her offspring (Macke & Morgan, 1978; Safilios-Rothschild, 1979).

Of course, sex role attitudes are not related only to family background, and its implicit attitudes about sex roles. The adolescent's own educational plans are likely to be important correlates also. Since educational aspirations are correlated with parental education (Alexander & Eckland, 1974; Hout & Morgan, 1975; Sewell & Shah, 1967), their effects reflect to some degree the influence of parental education on sex role attitudes, of course; but they also stand for the kind of peer subgroup an adolescent is likely to be involved with, the kind of educational experiences he or she is likely to be exposed to in high school, and the kind of future work and family roles he or she envisages. Educational plans might thus be predicted to be related to sex role attitudes.

Sex role attitudes may also be consistent with broader ideological orientations. Role differentiation by sex is an integral part of Judeo-Christian religions. Although there appears to be some variation among specific religious denominations, most of them support the traditional family and its procreative function, and thereby indirectly discourage changes of the female role. It thus seems likely that individuals with strong religious commitments will also exhibit relatively more traditional views on sharing of family and work roles.

By a similar token, notions of male superiority are fundamental parts of a patriarchical social structure (Lipman-Blumen & Tickamyer, 1975), while philosophies on the left tend to view women's emancipation as a form of class struggle and thus support their equality. Liberal political views might therefore be expected to be related positively to sharing of roles as a means of achieving equality between the sexes (Hershey & Sullivan, 1977).

The development of sex role attitudes from an undifferentiated, to a sex-stereotypical, to a flexible orientation is conceptualized by some authors as a function of cognitive development (Kohlberg, 1966; Rebecca, Hefner, & Oleshansky, 1976). Assuming a Piagetian perspective, it is argued that sex role attitudes—like moral development—can become less stereotypical and more flexible only to the extent that cognitive development has also proceeded beyond the conformistic to a flexible stage. By extension, the sharing of work and family duties might be expected to relate to the cognitive ability level of adolescents.

In order to (a) describe in detail adolescents' preferences for the division of labor between husband and wife, including the flexibility inherent in the various alternatives, (b) assess changes in these preferences over recent years, and (c) explore potential correlates, data from a large annual survey of high school seniors are examined and reported in this paper. In several respects, the items used here to measure preferences are more detailed than the measures contained in most surveys. First, using a scale ranging from "not at all acceptable" to "desirable," seniors rate each of five different ways a particular family task might be apportioned between the spouses. The apportionments range from traditionally sex-segregated to completely shared to segregated in a sex-reversed sense. This format allows each respondent to express the latitude of his or her acceptance across the range of

arrangements, in addition to indicating his or her preferred arrangement. These ratings are furthermore made separately for each of three major tasks—paid employment, child care, and housework. The three tasks cover the major responsibilities of a couple towards its family of procreation, and their separate assessments will enable examinations of the various aspects of the female and the male role. Finally, critical family circumstances, such as whether the wife holds paid employment or the couple has young children, are specified; this has the effect of making the measures more specific and thereby more reliable, since preferences are likely to be contingent upon the situation that the respondents assume to exist. Of course, these contingencies are not entirely independent of each other; i.e., intended labor force participation affects intended family size (Waite & Stolzenberg, 1976), and family size affects labor force participation (Smith-Lovin & Tickamyer, 1978). But scenarios as broadly defined as these are will apply to large parts of the adult population at some point during their life cycle (Glick, 1977) and thus may justifiably be specified as general contingencies.

METHOD

The data for the reported analyses are based on several questionnaire segments, each administered to approximately 3000 high school seniors who represent randomly selected subsamples of the Monitoring the Future project's annual data collection. The Monitoring the Future project is intended to monitor the lifestyles and values of American youth, including a wide variety of attitudes and expectations about marriage, parenting, work, education and the like. The basic research design involves annual data collections during the spring, beginning with the class of 1975. (A brief description of the sampling and questionnaire administration procedures is included as Appendix A).

In the present paper, data from the 1979 survey are used for the part which deals with description; analyses of trends and of correlates are based on the data from 1976 through 1979.

The data stem largely from one particular set of questions concerning the division of labor between husband and wife. Two of the questions probe the division of paid employment for a couple without children and for a couple with pre-school children. Two questions deal with the division of child care for a couple where only the husbands holds paid employment and for a couple where both partners are working. Finally, one question refers to the division of housework for a working couple. A slight difference in the definition of child care—day-to-day care for the couple with a not employed wife and after-work-hours care for an employed couple—limits the direct comparability of these two sets of items.* The 1979 data collection did not include a question on the division of housework for a couple where only the husband holds paid employment. However, such a question was asked in the 1975 data collection, and the results are included here for the sake of completeness.

---

*Child care was defined for different time frames in the two questions in order to exclude logical impossibilities—i.e., one of the partners working full-time and at the same time doing all of the child care.

Different arrangements for the division of labor within each situation were described so as to express (1) sole involvement of the husband, (2) predominant involvement of husband with some participation of the wife, (3) equal participation of both partners, (4) predominant involvement of the wife with some participation of the husband, (5) sole involvement of the wife. Respondents were asked to state their personal preference with each arrangement by rating it as either 'desirable,' 'acceptable,' 'somewhat acceptable,' or 'not at all acceptable.' The following example shows the question on division of paid work in a couple with young children:*

> **The questions in the next column ask you to imagine different kinds of married life that you might have. We want you to think about different ways you might share responsibilities for working, taking care of the home, and taking care of children. Please indicate how acceptable for you each of the different arrangements would be.**

8. Imagine you are married and have no children.

   How would you feel about each of the following working arrangements? (Mark one circle for each line.)

	Not At All Acceptable	Somewhat Acceptable	Acceptable	Desirable
a. Husband works full-time, wife doesn't work	①	②	③	④
b. Husband works full-time, wife works about half-time	①	②	③	④
c. Both work full-time	①	②	③	④
d. Both work about half-time	①	②	③	③
e. Husband works about half-time, wife works full-time	①	②	③	④
f. Husband doesn't work, wife works full-time	①	③	④	④

*The entire set of questions is included in Appendix B.

This question format has several advantages. First, in contrast to the more typical format, preferences towards division of paid work, housework and child care are measured separately and thus can be analyzed independently. Based on the differential patterns of the division of work, housework and child care observed in married women and men, we would expect to find different preference patterns for major family and work responsibilities among adolescents; therefore, we need separate measurements and independent analyses. Second, in order to develop reliable and accurate measures, it seems important to specify the particular family situation in as much detail as possible rather than to leave it up to the individual respondent to picture the 'typical' family. This is especially true since today's families vary in such critical features as whether they contain any children or whether the wife is working. It is, however, these very characteristics that are likely to affect arrangements for the division of labor in a family and that therefore may add to the noise in the measurement if not properly specified. Third, the range of response alternatives about the division of responsibilities between husband and wife allows us to distinguish between (a) a minor involvement by a partner in the duties traditionally assigned to the opposite sex, and (b) a tendency for completely egalitarian division of labor. Fourth, the system of rating the desirability/acceptability of several different alternatives seems particularly appropriate for asking about various arrangements in an adolescent's future family. The more usual survey approach might be to ask a respondent to pick the single arrangement that he or she likes best, but that procedure would provide no information about an individual's degree of flexibility to accept the other alternatives. The format we have adopted here is perhaps more demanding of respondents, but it also provides them with an opportunity to express their views more fully.

One way of evaluating a complex questionnaire format, such as the one described above, is to take a first look at the kinds and patterns of responses that result. In our view, the data show a good deal of orderliness and consistency. For one thing, most of the respondents rate no more than one of the given alternatives per family situation as "desirable" (Table 1). This indicates that the respondents try to choose one of the alternatives as their preferred option, if they can do so. (There is some suggestion in the data that the respondents who do not choose any alternative as desirable, or at least "acceptable", may reject the assumptions of a given family situation altogether.) Respondents vary in how many alternatives they rate as acceptable or somewhat acceptable; however, the acceptable options are usually adjacent to the options rated as desirable along the progression of alternatives from traditional allocation of labor to sex role reversed allocation (Table 2). In other words, respondents seem to view the given alternatives as an orderly continuum from one extreme to another, and they distribute their preferences and rejections in an organized fashion along this continuum. Only in a few exceptions do more than a negligible number of respondents accept alternatives from both extremes of the continuum but not from intermediate levels, labeled as "unlikely combinations" in Table 2. (In these few exceptions such a pattern was perfectly reasonable. It concerned work patterns in a couple with children; paid employment was acceptable for either parent but not for both.)

RESULTS

Preferences for Division of Labor

Division of Paid Work. As described above, two sets of questions were asked about the desirability/acceptability of different employment arrangements for a husband and wife. The first set referred to a couple without children, the second to a couple with one or more preschool children. In each family situation, six possible arrangements for the division of paid work were rated: either partner could work full-time with the other partner working full-time, half-time, or not at all; or both partners could work about half-time. Respondents were asked to rate each possible arrangement as desirable, acceptable, somewhat acceptable, or not at all acceptable. We noted above that this question format provides a rich and perhaps challenging array of alternatives for respondents; we think it will be clear in what follows that such a format also provides a rich and demanding set of data for analysis.

Faced with the problem of keeping track of four different levels of acceptability/desirability for five or six different arrangements in each of our topic areas, we developed the kind of data display shown in Figure 1. Since this sort of figure will be used throughout the paper, it will be useful to outline some of its key features. Note that the full data are included in Table 3.

1. The different possible divisions of labor are arrayed as a rough continuum across the bottom of the figure, ranging from high division of labor in a traditional sense over egalitarian sharing of labor to high division of labor in a sex-reversed sense. More accurately, it may be seen as a combination of two continua: moving from left to right, the wife's employment shifts from no outside job, to about half-time employment, to a full-time job (third, fourth, and fifth alternatives on the scale); also moving from left to right, the husband's employment is full-time (first, second, and third alternatives), then about half-time, then not at all. (The one other possible arrangement, both working half-time, did not fit neatly on the continuum; therefore, it is not shown).

2. The bottom set of profile lines in Figure 1 shows the percentages of males (solid line) and females (dashed line) who rated each arrangement as desirable. Thus, for example, the figure shows that the first alternative—husband working full-time and wife without outside employment—was rated desirable by only 12 percent of the males and an even smaller 5 percent of the females.

3. The next set of lines shows the percentage who rate each arrangement as at least acceptable—i.e., as either desirable or acceptable. Thus the first alternative was rated as either acceptable or desirable by 52 percent of the males but only 24 percent of the females. By subtracting the lower set of lines from the second set, one can derive the specific percentage of respondents who rated an alternative as acceptable (but not desirable). Put another way, we can think of the "area" between the first and second sets of lines as representing those who rated an alternative as acceptable.

4. The top set of lines indicates the percentage who rate each arrangement as at least somewhat acceptable—i.e., it is the sum of the percentages rating an alternative as desirable, acceptable, or somewhat acceptable. The "area" between this set of lines and the middle set of lines represents those who rated an alternative as only marginally acceptable.

5. The "area" above the top set of lines (or the difference between that percentage value and 100 percent) represents those who rated the alternative as not at all acceptable. (It is important to note that missing data were excluded from these percentage calculations; therefore, the four responses (desirable/acceptable/somewhat acceptable/not acceptable) always add to 100 percent.)

This description has no doubt confirmed our earlier statement that these data are complex and demanding. Perhaps it is also worth observing that there is, in our view, sufficient orderliness and regularity in the data to make the task manageable. For example, although there are some important and interesting differences between the percentages for males and females, the patterns for the two groups are sufficiently similar that we will often be able to talk about seniors in general rather than always separating males and females. It is also the case that the three sets of profile lines (desirable, at least acceptable, at least somewhat acceptable) track each other fairly closely; thus we will not need to discuss each in detail.

Looking now at Figure 1 as a whole, it is clear that the most widely preferred working arrangements, given a couple with no children, are those in which the husband is employed full-time and the wife is employed either full-time or half-time. These two alternatives receive the largest proportions of "desirable" ratings by both males and females, with slightly more females preferring that both work full-time and slightly more males preferring that the wife work only about half-time. The profile lines for "at least acceptable" or "at least somewhat acceptable" show similar patterns. It is interesting to note that the "safest" alternative for both males and females—i.e., the one that only about 4 percent rate "not at all acceptable"—involves the husband working full-time and the wife working half-time. While for many this is not their first choice, this compromise between traditionality and egalitarianism presumably comes close enough to be acceptable or at least somewhat acceptable to almost everyone. In contrast, the egalitarian arrangement with both partners working full-time is not universally acceptable; about 23 percent of the males and 10 percent of the females rate it as unacceptable.

The more traditional arrangement of husband employed full-time and wife not employed outside the home is rated desirable by about 12 percent of the males but only about 5 percent of the females. The sex differences are much more striking when we consider the proportions who find this alternative not at all acceptable—40 percent of the females compared with only 15 percent of the males. This should not necessarily be taken as an indication that males are much more traditional than females, given that relatively few males see this arrangement as their first choice. Instead, it appears that many males are willing to contemplate a variety of working arrangements for their wives, as long as they, the husbands, work full time. The females, on the other hand, are rating an arrangement that would rule out their own employment; many of them find that entirely unacceptable (40%), and only one quarter (24%) find it acceptable or desirable.

The comments above point out a kind of assymetry in the situations faced by males and females when they are rating some of the alternatives our questionnaire poses. A male may be clear that he wants to work full-time, but be open or "flexible" to consider whether his wife works full-time, half-time, or not at all. A parallel kind of flexibility on the part of a female would involve a different portion of the continuum shown in Figure 1; she might be sure she wants to work full-time, but be open to different levels of employment on the part of her husband. Interestingly, very little indication of such flexibility on the part of females is shown by the data in Figure 1: both females and males react more flexibly where the wife's rather than where husband's paid employment is concerned.

The right-hand portion of Figure 1 shows what might be termed sex role reversal—wife employed full-time with husband employed only half-time or not at all. It is very clear from the figure that this is not a popular notion among high school seniors—at least not for their own possible marriage. Large majorities of both males and females rate these arrangements as unacceptable. It may not be surprising that fully 87 percent of males rule out an arrangement in which they would not be employed at all (with a full-time working wife); however, it is interesting to note that just as many females (87%) are unwilling to tolerate such an arrangement. To put it in other words, only 13 percent of the female seniors would consider it even marginally acceptable to work full-time and "support" a spouse with no outside job, whereas fully 85 percent of male seniors would find the opposite arrangement (left-hand alternative in Figure 1) at least marginally acceptable.

Obviously, it does not mean the same thing for a female to have a non-employed spouse as it does for a male. The husband without a job is not, at present, widely accepted. Moreover, there are very few males (judging by the responses of high school seniors, at any rate) who are presently willing to contemplate such an arrangement for themselves. Thus, for a female to rate as acceptable the idea of a non-employed husband means not only that she has to fly in the face of social convention, but also that she has to consider the prospect of marriage to an individual who is, by present standards, highly unconventional. Many people, including high school seniors, would consider such a man lazy, unambitious, a "deadbeat." If our question had specified that the spouse with no outside job would "manage the home" and take care of a wide range of chores traditionally considered part of the female role, we might have seen some higher levels of acceptability for non-working husbands—at least in the ratings by female seniors. But even then such an answer would still imply a willingness to be married to a rather unusual man, given current norms, preferences, and practices.

It is of some interest to note the alternative egalitarian arrangement shown separately in Figure 1—the situation in which both spouses work about half-time. This arrangement is much less common (and perhaps less feasible in today's job market) than both spouses working full-time. Not only does it involve a break with tradition, but also it implies a somewhat limited family income as well as employment that is less likely to have "career" possibilities. Given all that, it is not surprising that the acceptability ratings for this alternative are much lower than the ratings for both partners working full-time. Nevertheless, this alternative is acceptable to more seniors than either of the alternatives which involve a wife working more than her husband. In other words, it is more acceptable for a husband to be working only half-time if his wife is also working half-time.

To summarize what we have observed thus far, it appears that when they contemplate being married with no children, most male seniors find acceptable either an egalitarian working arrangement (both full-time), or a traditional arrangement (wife not employed), or a compromise (wife working about half-time). The females are not sharply different from the males, except that fewer of them would find acceptable, or even marginally acceptable, an arrangement in which they did not have at least a half-time outside job. In conjunction with the fact that few males or females seem comfortable with the non-traditional arrangements (husband working less than full-time), this means that the overall range of acceptable alternatives is a bit narrower, on the average, for females than for males. Put another way, it seems that females are less flexible than males when it comes to accepting a variety of possible employment alternatives for a childless couple.

A closer and more detailed look at flexibility can be obtained from Table 2, which lists most of the probable combinations of responses to the several arrangements shown for each of the question topics. Part A of Table 2 provides such data for five of the employment arrangements for a childless couple. (The alternative of both working half-time was omitted, since it would have greatly complicated the tabulations and interpretations.) We will examine Part A of the table fairly closely, using it as an opportunity both to explain the way the data were tabulated and to illustrate the kinds of interpretations that such a tabulation permits.

The first pair of entries in Table 2, Part A, indicates that 6.8 percent of the males, and 1.1 percent of the females rate only the first working arrangement (husband employed full-time, wife not at all) as either acceptable or desirable; all other arrangements were given lower ratings by these respondents (either somewhat acceptable or not at all acceptable). The next pair of entries shows proportions (12% of males and of females) who consider the only acceptable (or desirable) alternative to be the one in which the husband works full-time and the wife half-time. The next pair of entries indicates that 7 percent of the males consider the egalitarian arrangement (both working full time) as the only fully acceptable (or desirable) working arrangement, whereas the proportion of females who see that as the only fully acceptable alternative is 23 percent. The next two pairs of entries indicate that virtually no seniors rate the reverse sex role alternatives as their only acceptable choices.

The first five rows in Table 2, Part A, taken as a group, indicate those seniors who rate one and only one of the alternatives as acceptable (or desirable). We may think of these individuals as having a low level of flexibility concerning the range of alternatives they would consider living with. When we add the percentages for the first five rows, we find that 26 percent of the males and 37 percent of the females fall into this low flexibility category—a difference consistent with our earlier observation that females, on the average, are a bit less flexible than males about acceptable working conditions for a childless couple. (Perhaps a still lower level of flexibility is represented by the next-to-last row in Table 2—those who rated none of the alternatives as either acceptable or desirable. Only 3.3 percent of the males and 3.1 percent of females fit that description. We would speculate that at least some of them were indicating that they would not, under any conditions of employment, find it acceptable to be married—or married without children.)

The next portion of Table 2, Part A—the sixth through ninth rows—represent those individuals who found two of the five alternatives at least acceptable. Here again we can see some interesting differences between male and female percentages. While 19 percent of males find either of the first two alternatives (husband working full-time, wife employed half-time or not at all) acceptable or desirable, only 7 percent of the females do. On the other hand, more females than males (28% versus 19%) find either the second or third alternative acceptable (husband full-time, wife half-time or full-time). The next two rows in the table, combinations involving husband working less than full-time, show very low acceptability ratings.

The tenth row in Table 2, Part A, indicates those who find each of the first three alternatives to be at least acceptable—i.e., those who will accept any level of employment or non-employment for the wife as long as the husband is employed full-time. As we would expect from the earlier findings, somewhat more males than females (18% versus 11%) show this relatively high degree of flexibility about the wife's working arrangements. A different kind of flexibility is shown in the eleventh row—an acceptable rating for either husband or wife working full-time while the other works half-time, or for both working full-time. Very few females (4.8%) and even fewer males (2.1%) seem to like this range of choices.

The remaining rows in Part A of Table 2 show very low frequencies. It may be worth noting that 2.6 percent of the males, compared with 1.4 percent of the females, rate all five alternatives as acceptable or desirable. At present we are really not sure how to interpret such a response pattern. On its face, it would represent the upper extreme of flexibility; but it could also indicate a lack of thought, interest, or understanding on the part of the respondents. (It is beyond the scope of the present analysis to try to sort through such alternative explanations.)

One final row remains in Table 2, and it requires a brief explanation. When we code each of the five alternatives into dichotomies ("desirable" or "acceptable", versus "somewhat acceptable" or "not at all acceptable"), there are 32 combinations of desirable/nondesirable responses that are theoretically possible. However, many of these combinations are quite improbable; for example, it seems unlikely that a senior would assign acceptable ratings to a wife working either full-time or not at all, but consider it unacceptable for the wife to work half-time (assuming in all cases that the husband works full-time). Those combinations which seemed most generally improbable were those which involved acceptable ratings for non-adjacent categories; accordingly, all such combinations (a total of seventeen) were included under the heading "unlikely combinations." In Part A of Table 2 fewer than five percent of either males or females fall into this residual category, thus indicating that such combinations are indeed "unlikely."

The remainder of Table 2, Parts B through E, provides data on combinations of responses to the other sets of questions on division of labor between husband and wife that are discussed below. We will cite highlights from Table 2 occasionally, but we invite the reader to examine the table in somewhat greater detail as a supplement to the information provided in Figures 2 through 5.

The positive attitudes of the high school seniors towards working women documented in the aggregate data as well as in the display of the combinations of acceptable sharing arrangements caught us somewhat by surprise. The responses to

a few additional questions that were included in the same survey may suggest some explanations for these positive attitudes. As shown in item A in Table 4, for a large majority (81%) of seniors a wife having a job is associated with the potential for her personal development and self-actualization; and, as shown in item B, only very few (14%) subscribe to a negative view of the effect of a woman's job on her marriage.

A woman's job is, however, believed to have a considerable effect on her young children, as demonstrated by items C and D in Table 4. Fully 58 percent of the seniors agree with the attitude statement that "a pre-school child is likely to suffer if the mother works" and a sizeable minority (36%) disagree with the contention that "a working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work".

The dramatic effects of the presence of pre-school children on preferences for the woman's work arrangement are paralleled in our second set of questions, as shown in Figure 2. Among the six alternatives for the division of paid work, the arrangement in which the husband works full-time and the wife does not hold a paid job is clearly preferred above all the other alternatives. Thirty-nine percent of the seniors rate this arrangement as desirable and only 8 percent consider it as not at all acceptable. In comparison, only 14 percent of the seniors rate the arrangement desirable in which the husband works full-time and the wife half-time. Although this latter arrangement appears to many seniors far less desirable than an arrangement involving a non-working wife, most of them feel that they could accept it for their own future family; 61 percent rate such an arrangement as at least acceptable and fully 87 percent rate it as at least somewhat acceptable. In other words, only 13 percent find an arrangement in which the husband works full-time and the wife half-time not at all acceptable. Any arrangement in which the wife would have to work full-time on the other hand, finds little support among the seniors; sixty-eight percent or more judge each of these alternatives as not at all acceptable. The three arrangements of a full-time working wife span the entire gamut of a husband's possible work involvement. Interestingly, the profile lines show virtually no differences, indicating that the husband's degree of work involvement is not viewed as a possible compensation for the wife's involvement; i.e., there appears to be little recognition that a husband who is not employed could conceivably take on some of the child care responsibilities his working wife cannot manage.

Within this framework of a preference for a non-working mother, small but consistent sex differences are apparent. Female seniors are somewhat less traditional than male seniors; they more often favor half-time working wives than males, while males more often favor non-working wives than do females.

To summarize, in a family with pre-school children a non-working wife is the most widely desired arrangement. Although not often rated as desirable, the alternative of a wife working half-time is rated acceptable or somewhat acceptable by a majority of the seniors, ranking this option close to the non-working mother in terms of acceptability. On the other hand, a lot of resistance is evidenced against any form of full-time employment by a mother of small children. This preference pattern is drastically different from the pattern for a couple which is assumed to be childless, in which case the options of either a half-time or a full-time working wife are as much or even more acceptable than a non-working wife. The comparison between the two family situations highlights the effect of young children on the

preference patterns for women's work; the presence of pre-school children acts against the desirability or acceptability of full-time and to some degree of half-time work by mothers, and this narrows down the range of acceptable alternatives for the division of paid work. The comparison also shows that the preference for males' work patterns is only minimally affected by the presence of pre-school children.

Table 2, Part B can be used to gain a more detailed insight into the flexibility among various alternative arrangements, as they are endorsed by individual respondents. It is clearly evident from this table that most seniors desire or accept either the arrangement of the full-time working husband and the non-working wife exclusively or in combination with the arrangement of the full-time working husband and the half-time working wife. A clear sex difference is further noticeable; females more often favor the two alternatives in combination than just the one, while males more often favor the one alternative as opposed to the two together. Considerably smaller numbers of seniors would desire or accept only the arrangement of a full-time working husband and a half-time working wife. The concentration on only a few of the possible combinations of arrangements differentiates this family situation from the family situation in which no young children are involved (Part A of Table 2) and underscores the loss in flexibility due to the presence of children.

We earlier termed "unlikely combinations" the endorsements of arrangements that are not adjacent on the ordering shown along the ordinate of the figures. Upon a closer look, two of these combinations actually appear as quite reasonable choices in a family situation involving young children. For example, 1.9 percent of the seniors reject the arrangement of both parents working full-time, while they desire or accept any other arrangement. Or, 1.8 percent accept or desire either a full-time working wife or a full-time working husband as long as the other partner is not employed. Both of these combinations seem to be based on a similar underlying rationale; it does not matter which partner works, as long as one of them has some time for the children.

Division of Child Care. As may be recalled, two questions concerning child care were included in the set of division-of-labor questions. The first question probes the division of day-to-day care of the children for a couple with a traditional pattern for paid employment: the husband working full-time and the wife not working. A second question asks about division of child care after working hours and on weekends in a marriage in which both partners are working full-time. Five different arrangements for allocating child care duties are rated; i.e., either partner does all of the child care, most of it, or both do it equally.

Consider first the preferences for child care arrangements for a traditional couple as shown in Figure 3 (i.e., husband employed full-time while wife stays home with the children). In this particular family situation child care done by both parents is the most often desired alternative (35%) and is rejected by almost none of the seniors (6%); on the other hand, child care done exclusively by the mother is less often judged as desirable (11%) and more often as not acceptable at all (30%). These findings are somewhat surprising with regard to an equity norm, since they suggest that the husband preferably should share this responsibility equally with his wife, in addition to having a full-time job. A separate question in the questionnaire concerning the father's role in child care (item E, Table 4) may help to explain these findings. A large majority (84%) of the seniors agree that "most fathers should spend more time with their children than they do now". We take these findings to

suggest that child care to some degree cannot be traded off against paid work in order to maintain an equitable work allocation; independently of whether a father is the sole provider for his family, his equal involvement with the children seems desirable to many seniors.

More in line with an equity norm is the endorsement of the arrangement in which the wife does most of the child care. This alternative is noted as somewhat less desirable than the equal allocation of child care (18%) but as almost equally acceptable. The two arrangements in which the husband does most or all of the child care meets little support; these latter findings are consistent with explanations based on equity of work allocation as well as on benefit to children resulting from contact with both parents.

Sex differences are again small, although slightly more females than males favor the equal division of child care, while slightly more males favor the wife attending exclusively to the children.

In terms of the combinations of arrangements as they appear desirable/acceptable (see Table 2, Part C), most seniors who so designate only one arrangement choose the equal division of child care (25%); a considerably smaller number choose the wife doing most of the child care (7%). Among the seniors who rate two arrangements as desirable/acceptable, 12 percent choose a combination of the wife doing all and the wife doing most of it, and another 19 percent the combination of the wife doing most of it and both partners doing it equally. As expected from the aggregate data displayed in Figure 3, females favor the combination that includes equal involvement for both partners. Little difference is shown for the males.

Consider next the situation of the working couple, as shown in Figure 4. Since in this situation the division of child care on evenings and weekends is measured, a substantial involvement of a working parent is more feasible than where day-to-day child care is concerned. The difference in the preferences for equal division between this and the previous set of questions may thus partly reflect a difference in feasibility rather than in actual preference and a direct comparison is not attempted. The preference for equal division of child care is strong in this situation, reflecting probably the effect of an equity norm. Some 43 percent of the seniors consider such an equal division desirable—females somewhat more so than males—and almost nobody (3%) would judge it as not at all acceptable. In contrast, all the remaining alternatives defining an unequal share of child care are rated desirable by only a small minority that in no case exceeds 5 percent. As expected, many more seniors would accept or somewhat accept an unequal division of child care than judge it as actually desirable. Slightly higher percentages of seniors are tolerant toward the unequal divisions where the wife carries the heavier load than toward the ones where the husband has major responsibilities. Sex differences, though small, are also worth noticing: females seem somewhat less tolerant towards unequal division of child care and more in favor of arrangements allowing for equal division. The analysis of the combination of alternatives judged by the seniors as acceptable or desirable (Table 2, Part D) suggest the same conclusion, namely a strong and almost exclusive preference for the equal division of child care.

In sum, the results for child care arrangements show that both male and female seniors have a strong preference for equal participation by both parents. This does not only hold for a working couple, in which it is preferred that both

partners participate to an equal degree in taking care of the children after working hours and on weekends, but also—to a lesser degree—for the day-to-day child care of a couple in which only the husband is gainfully employed. This finding seems most easily interpreted with respect to the interest of the children who benefit from the involvement of both parents in their care.

Division of Housework. As briefly mentioned above, in the 1979 data collection different arrangements for the division of housework were rated only for a couple in which both partners are working full-time. Since in the 1975 data collection the set of arrangements for the division of housework was also asked for the family situation of a traditional couple (husband works full-time, wife not employed), the 1975 data for that situation are included here. In comparing the two situations—one of them based on 1975 data and one on 1979 data—cognizance should be taken of the fact that the 1979 data may not replicate the 1975 data closely and that, to the degree that they are dissimilar, the differences between family situations are confounded with differences between the years of data collection. Indeed, the findings for the set of questions on housework which was included in both the 1975 and the 1979 data collections (data not presented) suggest that the overall patterns remained similar, but that there was less of a sex difference in 1975 than in 1979. The set of questions on child care in which the husband works full-time and the wife does not have a job evidences an even larger difference between 1975 and 1979 data than the comparable housework set (data not presented): the 1975 results show less of a sex difference and also less of a tendency towards egalitarian division of child care. We do not mean to imply that these differences necessarily reflect societal trends, but to the degree that the data of 1975 and 1979 are different—whatever the reasons—a direct comparison between them must be interpreted cautiously. With this caveat in mind, we present the data on preferences for the division of housework.

Starting with the traditional couple (Figure 5) and based on the data from 1975, it appears that the largest percentages of the seniors desire the wife to carry full (42%) or most (31%) responsibility for housework. The percentages of seniors who desire both partners to be equally involved or even the husband to take on a major share are drastically lower. The profile lines for "at least acceptable" and "at least somewhat acceptable" arrangements track the desirability ratings fairly closely; they also suggest that the arrangements of the wife doing all or most of the housework are most widely accepted, while equal division of housework is less accepted. Compared to child care duties, the data on housework suggest a lesser tendency towards egalitarianism. This may have to do with the nature of the duties. In general, while the quality of child care presumably benefits from the equal involvement of both parents, the quality of housework seems much less dependent upon the shared attention of both partners. A much more specific consideration, however, is that the responses reflect the particular formulation of the question: the item defines housework as "things like cooking, cleaning and laundry," while none of the housework responsibilities typically assigned to the husband such as mowing the lawn, shoveling snow, repairing the house, or taking out the garbage are included.

As far as the working couple is concerned (Figure 6), based on the data from 1979, the general pattern of views about sharing housework is fairly similar to the pattern of views about child care for a working couple. The equal division of housework is clearly the preferred option; and females favor it more strongly than

males, while they favor the unequal divisions less strongly. However, where housework is concerned, seniors do not favor equal division of labor as strongly as they do for child care. As suggested above, it is likely that seniors perceive the equal contribution of both partners as less critical for the outcome of housework than for the outcome of child care.

Trends in the Preferences for the Division of Family Responsibilities: 1976 through 1979

Table 5 presents mean values for 1976 through 1979 on the variables dealing with the division of paid work between husband and wife; it also contains the level of change between 1976 and 1979 expressed in standard deviations. As evidenced in these figures, preferences have been shifting away from the working husband and towards a working couple. Although the trends are not very strong, they are very consistent in direction over what must be considered a very short historical period in which to observe social change. Moreover, the shifts are statistically significant in several instances. The clearest change has occurred with regard to half-time work by a mother of young children and, among female seniors only, full-time work by a wife without children—both of which have become more widely accepted. This reinforces our previous observation that acceptance of work roles for mothers of young children is largely limited to half-time work: not only is this option viewed as much more acceptable and even more desirable than full-time work, as we noted before, but it also has become more acceptable over the last few years.

At the same time, remarkably little systematic change has occurred in preferences for sex-reversed arrangements. The idea of a husband working less than full-time while his wife works full-time is as strongly rejected in 1979 as it was in 1976.

Trends in preferences for work outside the home are quite similar for the two sexes. Given the persistent sex differences observed in the cross-sectional data, we note that both sexes have changed at a similar rate, which results in no substantial closing or widening of the sex gap on these issues.

Trends in preferences for housework and child care are less substantial and less systematic, although a tendency towards increased acceptance of equal sharing of housework and child care is indicated.

Correlates of Preferences

In an attempt to explain variations in preferences for division of responsibilities between husband and wife, we explored a set of factors which were suggested by previous research as potential correlates of sex role-related issues. These factors are organized here into: (a) family background factors, i.e., race, socioeconomic level as measured by father's and mother's education, and mother's degree of labor force participation; and (b) personal characteristics, i.e., educational plans as measured by planned college attendance, self-reported ability level, political orientation, and religious commitment. In causal terms, the family background factors are clearly antecedents of present preferences, although technically they are all measured at the same point in time. Personal

characteristics, on the other hand, are concurrent and could be conceptualized as either causes or effects of present sex role preferences. The operationalization of the variables are shown in the footnote to Table 6.

These measures were then correlated with the variables measuring preferences for sharing of family duties between husband and wife. Correlations were examined separately for 1976, 1977, 1978, and 1979; however, since little variation in these correlations was noticeable across years, average correlations are presented in Table 6. Also included in Table 6 are the average proportions of variance (R^2) accounted for by: (a) family background variables only; and (b) family background plus personal characteristics variables. R^2 indicates the proportion of variance which can be explained jointly by the predictors; the difference between R^2 attained with eight predictors and R^2 attained with four predictors indicates how much of the variation in the preferences is due to personal characteristics of seniors over and above what is already explained by their background characteristics.

DISCUSSION

In these pages we have presented a complex set of questions on high school seniors' preferences for division of labor between self and (future) spouse. Hopefully, it will have become clear that the complexity of the questions has resulted in a more refined understanding of these preferences; specifically, quite a wide range of preferences emerged depending on the particular duty in question and the family situation of the couple. In contrast to this set of questions consider a sex role attitude item as it is included in many surveys to measure sex role attitudes. The item is as follows: "It is usually better for everyone involved if the man is the achiever outside the home and the woman takes care of the home and the family." The results from this item in the 1979 Monitoring the Future data collection are shown in Table 4, (item G), and suggest quite traditional sex role attitudes without any indication of the large variations in these attitudes depending on the presence of pre-school children and the employment status of the wife. However, the family with pre-school children and a non-working wife by no means represents all the families in the United States and therefore should not be used as the only gauge.

In the following pages we will develop several general themes as they seem to crosscut the various arrangements and family situations. By the same token, these themes will serve as a form of summary and interpretation of the presented data.

How Strong is the Preference for Egalitarian Division of Labor?

The first three alternatives in each family situation can be regarded as spanning the range from traditional to egalitarian arrangements. The family in which the husband works full-time while the wife stays home and does all the child care and all the housework can certainly be considered the traditional extreme, while the working couple who participate equally in housework and child care mark the non-traditional or egalitarian extreme. From this perspective the high school seniors of 1979 appear quite open to sharing family responsibilities between the partners. Specifically, most of them would accept or even desire that a wife be

participating full-time or half-time in paid employment, if she had no children. And even assuming the presence of young children, quite a few seniors would at least accept half-time work by the mother.

Although we have found considerable percentages of high school seniors supporting egalitarian arrangements, we must add that the data by no means reflect a complete abandonment of the more traditional sex role distinctions. Most notably, the acceptable options for paid work for wives without children include a non-working, a half-time working and a full-time working wife. In other words, there are still many seniors who prefer a non-working or a half-time working wife over a full-time working wife, thereby failing to endorse a completely egalitarian arrangement for paid employment. Moreover, if the couple is assumed to have pre-school children, the wife is very clearly the partner who is preferred to drop out of the labor force and presumably attend to the children. Although the preferences for child care exhibit a strong focus on the egalitarian alternative, considerable numbers of seniors would still find it at least acceptable or somewhat acceptable if the wife did all or most of the child care.

Is There Any Support for Sex Role Reversal?

So far we have documented a considerable openness for egalitarian divisions of labor among high school seniors by focusing on the first three alternatives for each family situation. Throughout this paper, we have also commented on the alternatives which correspond to what may be called "sex role reversed" alternatives. These sex role reversed alternatives refer to arrangements in which the husband works less than full-time, or in which the husband does all or most of the child care or all or most of the housework. The last two alternatives on the range of options for each family situation reflect sex role reversed alternatives. In general, we have found few who rate these arrangements as desirable or even acceptable. With regard to paid employment more than half of the seniors would find it unacceptable for the husband of a childless couple to work half-time (66%) or not work at all (87%), even if his wife worked full-time and thereby presumably would contribute considerably to their economic support. These percentages indicate that the reluctance to accept sex role reversed division of labor is much greater than the reluctance to accept simple sex segregated division of labor, since only relatively small percentages would find it unacceptable for the wife to work half-time (4%) or not work at all (28%). Similarly, if the couple is assumed to have preschool children, three quarters of the seniors would not accept an option where the husband works half-time and fully 84% would not accept an option where the husband does not work at all, compared to 13% who would not accept a half-time and 8 percent who would not accept a non-working wife. (In terms of benefit to the children, the arrangements by which the husband works part-time or not at all and the wife works full-time should actually be considered advantageous over the alternative where both partners work full-time, since the father could attend to the children in his non-work time instead of leaving them to a babysitter. The data, however, suggest that the seniors are not thinking along those lines.)

Sex role reversal is no more acceptable where child care and housework are concerned. Well over half of both male and female seniors reject the husband doing more than an equal share under any of the circumstances covered in our measures.

The Male Role and the Female Role

There is still another perspective from which these data can be examined. The levels of acceptability/desirability for each alternative division of labor may be screened to determine which options are acceptable/desirable for a wife and which for a husband. This provides an estimate of the differences between, and the flexibility inherent in, the male and female roles as they are viewed by today's high school seniors. With regard to paid employment, we have noted above that for childless wives employment full-time, half-time, or not at all are all options that are at least somewhat accepted by over 72 percent of the seniors. A completely different picture emerges for the husband. In his case only full-time work is accepted by a majority of the seniors; acceptability (in terms of at least "somewhat acceptable") rarely exceeds 25 percent for all the part-time alternatives except for half-time work by a childless husband. Overall, we are impressed by the restrictive framework in which the husband's role is viewed, at least in terms of his involvement in paid employment. Bailyn (1964) referred to this differential pattern when she commented on the career choices of men and women. Limiting herself to the middle class she pointed out that men have no choice whether to work or not, while women are faced with the basic decision whether to include work in their life plans. On the other hand, Bailyn contended, once women have made that basic decision, they have a limited number of jobs open to them, while men have a choice among a much wider range of possible job alternatives. The somewhat increased flexibility towards half-time work for childless husbands, as compared to fathers of pre-school children which we noted above, cannot be easily explained by our data. It seems logical to suppose that it has to do with men's increased responsibilities for economic support when they have children.

Effect of Children on Employment Preferences

As reported above, the presence of pre-school children affects the preference pattern for women's work quite drastically. For the couple with no children, half-time or full-time work for the wife seems acceptable or even desirable to a considerable number of seniors. On the other hand, when the couple has one or more pre-school children, a non-working wife seems desirable to over one third of the seniors of both sexes and is at least somewhat accepted by virtually all of them. Although not as desirable as not having to work at all, half-time work is also quite widely accepted for a mother of young children. In clear contrast to the effect on women's work patterns, preferences for men's work are very little affected by the presence of young children; in each case less than full-time employment meets with little acceptance.

Overall, we are impressed by the clarity of the results; despite the observed tendencies toward more egalitarian division of labor and in particular more equal sharing of child care, the arrival of children affects only the preference pattern for the wife's but not for the husband's paid work. Moreover, these views are shared between male and female seniors, pointing to a general agreement about the differential modifiability of work patterns due to child rearing responsibilities.

Sex Differences in Preference Patterns

As shown in the figures and quantitatively summarized in Table 7, sex differences that are notable are quite consistent. Fewer female than male seniors are traditional in their preferences concerning particular arrangements for allocating various types of family responsibilities between themselves and their future husbands while more females than males favor egalitarian arrangements. Specifically, across the different types of family responsibilities and the different levels of acceptability/desirability, females more frequently than males favor full-time employment for wives without children, half-time employment for mothers with young children, and equal involvement in child care and housework by both partners. On the other hand, males more frequently than females favor no employment for wives without children and the wife having sole responsibility for child care and housework. Females are very similar to males with regard to reversed sex role preferences; seniors of either sex refuse to accept males working less than full-time or taking on the major responsibility for child care and housework. Moreover, males and females have been changing at a similar pace since 1976, leaving the sex differences largely unchanged.

The consistent tendency for males to be somewhat more conservative, on the average, confirms other reports of more traditional sex role attitudes in males than in females (Angrist, Mickelsen, & Penna, 1977; Osmond & Martin, 1975). It still seems to us that the level of sex differences observed in our data are not pronounced enough to predict widespread and fundamental disagreement between the sexes about the proper roles for husbands and wives.

Other Correlates of Preference Patterns

Above average support for working wives as well as equally shared child care and housework is evident among female respondents who report high academic ability, those with college plans, and those with liberal political beliefs. Although the effects are not strong, they are consistent with hypotheses formulated on the basis of previous research. However, given the intercorrelation between abilities and educational plans and their somewhat overlapping effect on preferences (as shown in results from multiple regression analyses not reported here), it is impossible to assign the effect either to abilities or aspirations. Consequently, the two hypotheses cannot be tested separately.

In contrast to the females, young men show much less clear effects of the above correlates. This suggests that men's abilities, attitudes, and ideologies bear a less uniform relationship to their preferences for the divison of tasks between spouses. It appears indeed quite plausible that sex role preferences should be less well linked with men's attitudinal structure and with their life styles, since variation in sex role definition has less bearing on men's lives or, at least, such bearing is less commonly recognized by the seniors.

Two unique and reasonably strong predictors are observed where the division of paid work for a couple with young children is concerned: respondents who are black and respondents who have had a working mother themselves are more likely to respond positively to the employment of a mother with young children. Thus, while personal ambitions and attitudes appear to influence intentions for labor force

participation among young women, the presumed presence of preschool children in their future family weakens the effect of those very variables and equalizes intended labor force participation. The only variables which noticeably increase preferences for a working wife under the latter circumstances deal with directly relevant experiences; the example of a working mother or of otherwise self-supporting women as they abound in the black community promotes favorable attitudes. Interestingly, the example of the working mother has a positive effect on the preferences of young women as well as young men. This finding suggests that the effect should be understood in a broad sense as displaying a viable lifestyle or as setting norms rather than in the more narrow sense of providing a model for the same-sexed child.

Concluding Remarks: The Need for More Refined Assessment of Sex Role Preferences

This paper has dealt with a fairly complex set of data concerning high school seniors' preferences for the division of work and family tasks between themselves and their future spouses. While the seniors react quite liberally towards paid employment by the wife who has no children, they demonstrate much more conservatism in this regard when preschool children are present. These findings raise doubts about the usefulness of responses to items cast in the form of very sweeping generalizations. One such item is included in many surveys and frequently used as an indicator of sex role attitudes: "It is usually better for everyone involved if the man is the achiever outside the home and the woman takes care of the home and the family." This item is likely to imply the presence of children and thus should result in rather conservative responses, according to our present findings. And indeed, data from the Monitoring the Future study, where this item was also included, indicate that 49 percent of all seniors agree with it, another 15 percent neither agree nor disagree, and only 36 percent disagree. That responses to this item represent only one side of the coin is demonstrated by seniors' more liberal responses to women's work when no children are involved, as discussed earlier. A fuller understanding of the difference made by the presence and absence of children is very relevant, since increased life expectancy and the reduction in large families means that today's couples spend many years of their married lives without children (Glick, 1977).

The present question format permits another tendency towards liberalism to surface: although most seniors do not consider it desirable that the mother of preschool children work even half-time, very few reject such half-time work as unacceptable. Moreover, this half-time work has shown a clear trend towards increased acceptability between 1976 and 1979, while the trend for full-time work is marginal. Only the inclusion of intermediate alternatives and the differentiation of the response scale allow these interesting findings to emerge.

The questions used here reveal differences not only in preferences for division of duties, but also in the way these preferences are correlated with other variables. The general preferences for sharing duties appear to be positively related to intellectual abilities and educational aspirations among female seniors, but not among males. On the other hand, both male and female preferences for sharing of the work role by mothers of young children are affected by background

variables—race and having had a working mother. Note also that race and working mother are clearly related only to the extreme alternatives of a mother not working at all or working full-time, but not to the much more widely accepted alternative of her half-time work.

In sum, it appears that the detailed measurement approach used in this paper has outlined a complex set of attitudes concerning division of responsibilities between husband and wife, which cannot in the aggregate easily be labeled as traditional or liberal. Rather it is suggested that preferences toward sharing of responsibilities depend critically on the particular responsibility involved, the division of other responsibilities the couple has to meet, and the distinction between categorizing an arrangement as desirable versus merely acceptable.

At this point in our research we must urge that our attitudinal data be interpreted with some caution, given the generally low consistency between attitudes and corresponding behaviors (Wicker, 1969). At the same time, we stress again that the measures are phrased in terms of personal preferences and are situation-specific, two factors which have been identified as improving attitude-behavior consistency (Schuman & Johnson, 1976; Kiesler, Collins, & Miller, 1969). It remains to be seen whether seniors' preference ratings under a number of hypothetical family arrangements will bear clear relationships to future behaviors and circumstances; fortunately, the longitudinal aspects of the Monitoring the Future project are likely to permit some such assessment a few years from now.

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1

Numbers of Arrangements Rated as Desirable, as Acceptable, as Somewhat Acceptable, and as Not At All Acceptable (1979 Data)

	ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAID EMPLOYMENT															
	PART A								PART B							
Family Situation:	Without Children								With 1 or More Preschool Children							
NUMBER OF ARRANGE-MENTS	NOT ACCEPTABLE		SOMEWHAT ACCEPTABLE		ACCEPTABLE		DESIRABLE		NOT ACCEPTABLE		SOMEWHAT ACCEPTABLE		ACCEPTABLE		DESIRABLE	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	8%	8%	27%	18%	14%	16%	51%	50%	5%	6%	40%	31%	29%	25%	42%	45%
1	12	12	40	40	37	43	40	43	10	10	33	35	40	41	49	46
2	21	25	22	28	30	27	7	6	14	14	18	25	21	24	6	8
3	38	33	8	12	14	10	2	1	27	35	8	7	7	7	1	1
4	18	20	2	3	3	3	1	0	30	27	1	2	2	2	1	0
5	4	3	1	1	2	1	0	0	15	9	0	1	0	1	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Males = (1653) Females = (1566)								Males = (1653) Females = (1566)							

Table 1 (Continued)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILD CARE

NUMBER OF ARRANGE-MENTS	PART C — Family Situation: Husband has full-time Job; Wife does not								PART D — Both Husband and Wife have full-time jobs							
	NOT ACCEPTABLE		SOMEWHAT ACCEPTABLE		ACCEPTABLE		DESIRABLE		NOT ACCEPTABLE		SOMEWHAT ACCEPTABLE		ACCEPTABLE		DESIRABLE	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	10%	7%	25%	27%	23%	24%	46%	40%	11%	7%	29%	32%	36%	38%	59%	49%
1	25	20	39	41	40	42	45	51	13	11	34	33	42	44	31	45
2	43	46	27	27	27	27	7	7	39	36	24	25	16	14	8	4
3	17	21	7	4	9	6	1	2	21	25	9	7	5	4	1	1
4	6	6	3	2	1	1	0	0	17	21	3	2	1	1	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Males = (1653) Females = (1566)								Males = (1592) Females = (1624)							

Table 1 (Continued)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOUSEWORK

PART E

Family Situation: Both Husband and Wife have full-time jobs

NUMBER OF ARRANGE-MENTS	NOT ACCEPTABLE		SOMEWHAT ACCEPTABLE		ACCEPTABLE		DESIRABLE	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	14%	7%	34%	39%	44%	51%	55%	44%
1	13	9	23	23	38	37	39	53
2	30	32	27	30	11	9	5	2
3	18	21	8	5	5	2	1	1
4	25	31	5	3	1	1	0	0
5	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Males = (1592)
Females = (1624)

Table 2

Combinations of Arrangements Rated as Desirable or Acceptable (1979 Data)

	ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAID EMPLOYMENT					
	PART A			PART B		
Family Situation:	Without Children			With 1 or more Preschool Children		
COMBINATION	TOTAL N=(3284)	MALES N=(1630)	FEMALES N=(1539)	TOTAL N=(3291)	MALES N=(1633)	FEMALES N=(1544)
1 exclusively	3.9%	6.8%	1.1%	27.8%	33.3%	22.3%
2 exclusively	11.8	12.3	11.7	9.3	6.8	11.9
3 exclusively	15.1	6.6	23.4	2.2	1.9	2.4
4 exclusively	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
5 exclusively	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
1 and 2	13.3	19.1	7.2	34.0	31.8	37.0
2 and 3	23.4	18.8	28.3	3.7	3.9	3.2
3 and 4	1.2	0.6	1.7	0.3	0.1	0.4
4 and 5	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0
1 through 3	15.1	18.3	11.4	5.1	5.8	4.3
2 through 4	3.4	2.1	4.8	0.5	0.7	0.3
3 through 5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1
1 through 4	1.8	2.5	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.9
2 through 5	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.4
1 through 5	2.1	2.6	1.4	1.4	1.6	0.9
None	3.2	3.3	3.1	5.2	4.4	6.0
Unlikely Combinations	4.2	4.7	3.3	8.8	8.0	9.9

Note: 1 = Husband works full-time, wife doesn't work
2 = Husband works full-time, wife works about half time
3 = Both work full time
4 = Husband works about half-time, wife works full-time
5 = Husband doesn't work, wife works full-time

Table 2 (Continued)

	ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILD CARE					
	PART C			PART D		
Family Situation:	Husband has full-time job; Wife does not			Both Husband and Wife have full-time jobs		
COMBINATION	TOTAL N=(3292)	MALES N=(1634)	FEMALES N=(1544)	TOTAL N=(2607)	MALES N=(1188)	FEMALES N=(1378)
1 exclusively	2.2%	3.3%	1.0%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%
2 exclusively	7.3	7.4	7.3	2.6	2.6	2.6
3 exclusively	24.7	23.0	26.2	60.5	53.2	67.1
4 exclusively	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
5 exclusively	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.1
1 and 2	11.9	13.5	10.5	3.9	5.8	2.3
2 and 3	19.4	15.6	23.5	6.3	4.8	7.7
3 and 4	1.4	1.5	1.2	2.0	2.3	1.8
4 and 5	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1
1 through 3	17.3	18.8	16.0	4.6	6.4	3.0
2 through 4	2.8	2.9	3.0	1.6	1.4	1.9
3 through 5	0.4	0.2	0.5	1.1	0.5	1.4
1 through 4	2.0	2.3	1.7	1.1	2.0	0.2
2 through 5	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
1 through 5	1.7	2.2	1.0	1.6	1.8	1.5
None	3.2	3.9	2.4	10.2	13.4	7.3
Unlikely Combinations	5.0	4.4	5.2	3.1	3.9	2.2

Note: 1 = Wife does all child care
2 = Wife does most of it
3 = Both do it equally
4 = Husband does most of it
5 = Husband does all of it

Table 2 (Continued)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOUSEWORK

PART E

Family Situation: Both Husband and Wife have full-time jobs

COMBINATION	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
	N=(2628)	N=(1205)	N=(1381)
1 exclusively	1.7%	2.3%	1.3%
2 exclusively	5.0	5.2	4.8
3 exclusively	46.8	41.1	51.8
4 exclusively	0.3	0.3	0.3
5 exclusively	0.3	0.3	0.2
1 and 2	9.1	11.6	6.9
2 and 3	8.6	6.5	10.6
3 and 4	2.0	2.0	2.0
4 and 5	0.6	0.2	0.9
1 through 3	7.4	9.4	5.9
2 through 4	1.1	0.7	1.4
3 through 5	1.0	0.6	1.2
1 through 4	0.8	0.9	0.5
2 through 5	0.3	0.1	0.4
1 through 5	1.4	2.0	1.0
None	8.5	10.9	6.5
Unlikely Combinations	5.2	5.9	4.5

Note: 1 = Wife does all housework
2 = Wife does most of it
3 = Both do it equally
4 = Husband does most of it
5 = Husband does all of it

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 3

Percent Distributions for Division-of-Responsibility Variables, for Total Sample of 1979, and Separate for Males and Females

Family Situation:	ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAID EMPLOYMENT: Married couple without children TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	Married couple with preschool children TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
Husband works full-time, Wife doesn't work						
(1) Not acceptable	27.5%	14.7%	40.1%	7.6%	6.0%	9.1%
(2) Somewhat acceptable	34.0	33.3	35.5	15.8	13.7	17.8
(3) Acceptable	30.3	40.4	19.8	37.5	36.2	38.3
(4) Desirable	8.2	11.7	4.6	39.1	44.1	34.8
N =	(3320)	(1647)	(1555)	(3327)	(1649)	(1560)
Husband works full-time, Wife works about half-time						
(1) Not acceptable	3.7	4.2	3.1	13.3	17.1	9.5
(2) Somewhat acceptable	21.9	15.9	28.0	25.5	26.4	24.3
(3) Acceptable	56.2	59.2	52.9	47.5	45.9	49.6
(4) Desirable	18.2	20.6	16.1	13.6	10.6	16.5
N =	(3324)	(1647)	(1559)	(3321)	(1647)	(1556)
Both work full-time						
(1) Not acceptable	16.0	22.6	9.7	68.0	71.5	65.5
(2) Somewhat acceptable	18.9	22.5	15.4	16.5	12.3	21.0
(3) Acceptable	41.6	37.6	44.9	9.9	10.9	8.1
(4) Desirable	23.5	17.3	29.9	5.5	5.3	5.3
N =	(3313)	(1640)	(1555)	(3308)	(1642)	(1549)
Both work about half-time						
(1) Not acceptable	52.1	55.1	49.0	54.4	57.2	51.8
(2) Somewhat acceptable	27.4	24.6	30.2	27.4	26.1	28.6
(3) Acceptable	13.9	13.1	15.0	13.7	12.1	15.3
(4) Desirable	6.5	7.1	5.8	4.4	4.6	4.4
N =	(3295)	(1634)	(1544)	(3308)	(1642)	(1549)
Husband works about half-time, Wife works full-time						
(1) Not acceptable	66.2	70.7	61.6	75.0	76.8	73.4
(2) Somewhat acceptable	21.5	16.7	26.4	16.3	15.3	17.5
(3) Acceptable	9.5	9.1	10.1	6.3	5.3	7.2
(4) Desirable	2.8	3.5	1.9	2.4	2.6	1.9
N =	(3309)	(1644)	(1548)	(3314)	(1644)	(1552)
Husband doesn't work, Wife works full-time						
(1) Not acceptable	87.0	87.4	87.1	84.1	84.2	83.9
(2) Somewhat acceptable	7.4	6.1	8.5	7.9	7.6	8.3
(3) Acceptable	3.1	3.2	2.9	4.8	4.9	4.9
(4) Desirable	2.5	3.3	1.5	3.2	3.3	2.9
N =	(3314)	(1643)	(1553)	(3311)	(1642)	(1552)

Table 3 (Continued)

Family Situation:	ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILD CARE: Husband has a full-time job, Wife doesn't			Husband and Wife have full-time jobs		
	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
Wife does all of it						
(1) Not acceptable	30.4%	25.2%	36.1%	66.0%	56.2%	74.5%
(2) Somewhat acceptable	29.9	30.9	28.7	20.2	24.6	16.4
(3) Acceptable	28.9	31.0	26.5	9.5	12.0	7.4
(4) Desirable	10.8	12.9	8.8	4.3	7.1	1.7
	N = (3310)	(1640)	(1553)	(2638)	(1202)	(1395)
Wife does most of it						
(1) Not acceptable	8.6	8.3	8.6	33.4	31.6	34.8
(2) Somewhat acceptable	27.9	27.5	27.9	43.2	41.4	44.8
(3) Acceptable	45.5	46.1	45.6	18.4	19.6	17.4
(4) Desirable	18.0	18.1	17.9	5.0	7.5	2.9
	N = (3316)	(1645)	(1552)	(2636)	(1200)	(1395)
Both do it equally						
(1) Not acceptable	5.9	7.2	4.7	3.3	4.7	2.1
(2) Somewhat acceptable	20.0	22.6	17.6	15.8	20.4	11.8
(3) Acceptable	38.9	39.8	37.3	37.6	40.9	35.0
(4) Desirable	35.1	30.4	40.5	43.2	34.1	51.1
	N = (3310)	(1639)	(1552)	(2640)	(1204)	(1395)
Husband does most of it						
(1) Not acceptable	56.7	54.5	58.7	57.0	53.7	60.3
(2) Somewhat acceptable	33.3	34.5	32.5	33.6	35.6	31.8
(3) Acceptable	7.9	8.6	7.1	6.8	8.5	5.4
(4) Desirable	2.2	2.5	1.7	2.6	2.2	2.5
	N = (3305)	(1639)	(1550)	(2628)	(1199)	(1388)
Husband does all of it						
(1) Not acceptable	89.7	88.2	91.5	85.2	81.1	89.0
(2) Somewhat acceptable	6.5	7.2	5.8	9.7	13.2	6.7
(3) Acceptable	1.8	2.2	1.4	2.5	3.3	1.8
(4) Desirable	1.9	2.4	1.3	2.6	2.4	2.5
	N = (3309)	(1641)	(1550)	(2630)	(1200)	(1389)

Table 3 (Continued)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOUSEWORK Family Situation:	Husband and Wife both have full-time jobs		
	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
Wife does all of it			
(1) Not acceptable	46.1%	39.6%	51.8%
(2) Somewhat acceptable	29.5	30.1	28.9
(3) Acceptable	17.3	18.9	15.9
(4) Desirable	7.0	11.4	3.4
	N = (2678)	(1227)	(1408)
Wife does most of it			
(1) Not acceptable	26.7	24.5	28.6
(2) Somewhat acceptable	38.0	36.8	39.0
(3) Acceptable	26.7	27.3	26.1
(4) Desirable	8.6	11.4	6.3
	N = (2669)	(1223)	(1403)
Both do it equally			
(1) Not acceptable	5.7	6.7	4.7
(2) Somewhat acceptable	20.9	25.9	16.5
(3) Acceptable	39.9	42.2	38.2
(4) Desirable	33.6	25.3	40.5
	N = (2659)	(1217)	(1400)
Husband does most of it			
(1) Not acceptable	65.0	63.5	66.7
(2) Somewhat acceptable	26.0	27.6	24.6
(3) Acceptable	5.6	5.9	5.2
(4) Desirable	3.4	3.0	3.4
	N = (2656)	(1216)	(1397)
Husband does all of it			
(1) Not acceptable	87.5	85.2	89.9
(2) Somewhat acceptable	6.8	8.8	4.8
(3) Acceptable	2.3	2.9	1.8
(4) Desirable	3.4	3.1	3.5
	N = (2665)	(1220)	(1402)

Table 4

Response Distributions for Sex Role-Related Attitude Items (1979 Data)

		TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
A.	Having a job gives a wife more of a chance to develop herself as a person			
	Disagree	3.9%	4.7%	2.6%
	Mostly disagree	4.3	5.6	3.1
	Neither	10.9	15.7	6.2
	Mostly agree	29.8	35.6	24.4
	Agree	51.1	38.4	63.8
	N =	(3290)	(1576)	(1615)
B.	Having a job takes away from a woman's relationship with her husband			
	Disagree	47.1	35.2	58.6
	Mostly disagree	25.2	27.9	23.0
	Neither	13.2	16.9	9.4
	Mostly agree	9.3	12.3	6.2
	Agree	5.2	7.7	2.8
	N =	(3291)	(1576)	(1617)
C.	A preschool child is likely to suffer if the mother works			
	Disagree	14.2	9.7	18.2
	Mostly disagree	14.5	9.8	19.0
	Neither	13.5	11.7	15.3
	Mostly agree	24.7	26.1	23.4
	Agree	33.1	42.8	24.1
	N =	(3274)	(1528)	(1641)
D.	A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work			
	Disagree	17.7	26.1	9.8
	Mostly disagree	18.0	22.8	13.8
	Neither	9.0	10.9	7.7
	Mostly agree	25.0	19.6	29.7
	Agree	30.3	20.7	38.9
	N =	(3291)	(1533)	(1648)

Table 4 (Continued)

	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
E. Most fathers should spend more time with their children than they do now			
Disagree	1.3%	1.4%	1.1%
Mostly disagree	2.6	3.4	1.8
Neither	12.4	13.1	11.9
Mostly agree	34.4	34.8	33.8
Agree	49.3	47.3	51.5
	N = (3281)	(1536)	(1627)
F. If a wife works, her husband should take a greater part in housework and child care			
Disagree	7.0	8.8	5.3
Mostly disagree	6.6	7.2	5.9
Neither	12.8	12.5	12.8
Mostly agree	35.5	38.3	33.5
Agree	38.1	33.1	42.5
	N = (3292)	(1578)	(1616)
G. It is usually better for everyone involved if the man is the achiever outside the home and the woman takes care of the home and family			
Disagree	19.7	10.4	28.1
Mostly disagree	16.7	12.4	20.6
Neither	14.9	17.6	12.6
Mostly agree	26.1	27.6	24.5
Agree	22.6	32.0	14.1
	N = (3286)	(1532)	(1644)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 5

Trends in Mean Preferences for Division-of-Responsibilities 1976 - 1979

	MALES						FEMALES					
	1976[a]	1977	1978	1979	d/s[b]	T-score[c] 1976/1979	1976	1977	1978	1979	d/s	T-score 1976/1979
Division of Paid Work												
No children: Hb full, Wife not	2.55	2.54	2.51	2.49	-.06	1.52	1.98	1.96	1.92	1.89	-.11	2.24
No children: Hb full, Wife half	2.93	2.99	2.93	2.96	.05	-.91	2.89	2.84	2.85	2.82	-.10	2.12
No children: Hb + Wife full	2.39	2.43	2.43	2.50	.10	-2.39	2.75	2.80	2.86	2.95	.22	-4.71
No children: Hb half, Wife full	1.47	1.49	1.51	1.45	-.02	.55	1.52	1.57	1.55	1.52	.00	0.00
No children: Hb not, Wife full	1.27	1.29	1.30	1.23	-.07	1.30	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.19	-.08	1.51
Preschool children: Hb full, Wife not	3.32	3.26	3.19	3.18	-.16	3.65	3.12	3.02	2.98	2.99	-.14	3.08
Preschool children: Hb full, Wife half	2.32	2.38	2.47	2.50	.20	-4.43	2.56	2.64	2.68	2.73	.20	-4.44
Preschool children: Hb + Wife full	1.42	1.43	1.46	1.50	.09	-2.06	1.44	1.53	1.53	1.53	.10	-2.42
Preschool children: Hb half, Wife full	1.32	1.36	1.38	1.34	.03	-.64	1.31	1.35	1.36	1.38	.10	-2.30
Preschool children: Hb not, Wife full	1.29	1.32	1.28	1.27	-.02	.63	1.27	1.26	1.26	1.27	.00	0.00

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 5 (Continued)

	MALES						FEMALES					
	1976	1977	1978	1979	d/s	T-score 1976/1979	1976	1977	1978	1979	d/s	T-score 1976/1979
Division of Childcare												
Hb works, Wife doesn't:												
Wife does all child care	2.35	2.37	2.27	2.32	-.04	.84	2.13	2.07	2.10	2.08	-.05	1.24
Wife does most child care	2.78	2.74	2.75	2.74	-.05	1.05	2.76	2.71	2.68	2.73	-.03	.76
Wife & Wife do equal child care	2.86	2.92	2.94	2.93	.08	-1.88	3.04	3.09	3.10	3.14	.11	-2.32
Hb does most child care	1.55	1.58	1.55	1.59	.05	-1.27	1.41	1.49	1.49	1.52	.15	-3.44
Hb does all child care	1.18	1.21	1.19	1.19	.00	-.08	1.12	1.13	1.15	1.12	.02	-3.53
Hb and Wife work full-time:												
Wife does all child care		1.64	1.71	1.70	.06			1.42	1.46	1.36	-.07	
Wife does most child care		2.04	2.09	2.03	-.01			1.91	2.01	1.89	-.04	
Hb and Wife do equal child care		2.94	3.10	3.04	.12			3.32	3.43	3.35	.05	
Hb does most child care		1.57	1.58	1.59	.03			1.49	1.53	1.50	.01	
Hb does all child care		1.28	1.24	1.27	-.02			1.18	1.19	1.18	-.01	
Division of Housework												
Hb and wife work full-time:												
Wife does all housework		2.07	2.10	2.02	-.04			1.73	1.78	1.71	-.03	
Wife does most housework		2.32	2.36	2.26	-.07			2.12	2.22	2.10	-.03	
Hb and Wife do equal housework		2.73	2.88	2.86	.15			3.17	3.27	3.15	-.03	
Hb does most housework		1.48	1.48	1.48	.00			1.48	1.44	1.45	-.04	
Hb does all housework		1.23	1.20	1.24	.01			1.17	1.17	1.19	.03	

[a]Each mean is based on approximately 1500 respondents.

[b]Column labeled "d/s" shows the difference between the 1979 and 1976 means divided by the standard deviation in 1979.

[c]T-Scores were estimated with effective Ns of 2/3 the actual sample size (i.e. effective Ns of 1000) in order to adjust for design effect.

Table 6

Relationships Between Division-of-Responsibilities Variables and Correlates (1976–1979 Data)

	MALES									
	Race[a]	Working[b] mother	Father's[c] educ.	Mother's[c] educ.	Acad.[d] abil.	College[e] plans	Polit.[f] orient.	Relig.[g] commit.	R^2, by 4 fam. backg. vars.	R^2, by 4 fam. backg. + 4 pers.ch.vars.
Division of Paid Work										
No children: Hb full, Wife not	-.15	-.09	.00	-.04	.03	-.02	-.08	.08	.031	.047
No children: Hb full, Wife half	-.14	-.01	.06	.07	.12	.08	.00	.00	.021	.033
No children: Hb + Wife full	.04	.09	.05	.09	.06	.11	.10	-.06	.015	.035
No children: Hb half, Wife full	.04	-.01	.08	.06	.03	.06	.11	-.09	.010	.029
No children: Hb not, Wife full	.05	-.03	.02	-.01	-.04	-.02	.10	-.08	.003	.019
Preschool children: Hb full, Wife not	-.28	-.17	.09	.07	.16	.13	-.04	.06	.097	.120
Preschool children: Hb full, Wife half	.04	.13	.01	.05	.02	.04	.04	-.05	.022	.026
Preschool children: Hb + Wife full	.20	.17	-.08	-.06	-.13	-.08	.01	-.04	.060	.071
Preschool children: Hb half, Wife full	.09	.03	.03	.03	-.02	.02	.07	-.07	.011	.021
Preschool children: Hb not, Wife full	.05	-.02	.01	.01	.00	.03	.07	-.05	.002	.010

Table 6 (Continued)

	FEMALES									
	Race[a]	Working[b] mother	Father's[c] educ.	Mother's[c] educ.	Acad.[d] abil.	College[e] plans	Polit.[f] orient.	Relig.[g] commit.	R^2, by 4 fam. backg. vars.	R^2, by 4 fam. backg. + 4 pers.ch.vars.
Division of Paid Work										
No children: Hb full, Wife not	-.06	-.09	-.06	-.09	-.09	-.13	-.11	.08	.016	.044
No children: Hb full, Wife half	-.18	-.09	.01	.01	-.01	-.06	-.08	.06	.032	.042
No children: Hb + Wife full	-.06	.07	.07	.10	.20	.16	.08	-.06	.019	.067
No children: Hb half, Wife full	-.04	-.05	.10	.10	.07	.13	.11	-.07	.014	.036
No children: Hb not, Wife full	.02	-.04	.04	.04	-.02	.04	.08	-.03	.004	.012
Preschool children: Hb full, Wife not	-.28	-.17	.06	.04	.07	-.02	-.12	.10	.089	.111
Preschool children: Hb full, Wife half	-.01	.10	-.01	.01	.02	.03	.04	-.05	.009	.012
Preschool children: Hb + Wife full	.20	.17	-.09	-.04	-.04	.01	.03	-.02	.061	.061
Preschool children: Hb half, Wife full	.03	.01	.08	.08	.03	.11	.11	-.07	.009	.029
Preschool children: Hb not, Wife full	-.01	-.03	.07	.09	.05	.09	.10	-.05	.010	.023

Table 6 (Continued)

	MALES									
	Race[a]	Working[b] mother	Father's[c] educ.	Mother's[c] educ.	Acad.[d] abil.	College[e] plans	Polit.[f] orient.	Relig.[g] commit.	R^2, by 4 fam. backg. vars.	R^2, by 4 + 4 fam. backg. pers.ch.vars.
Division of Child Care										
Hb Works, Wife doesn't										
Wife does all child care	.01	-.02	-.04	-.05	-.04	-.07	-.01	-.04	-.003	.003
Wife does most child care	-.10	-.04	.07	.05	.09	.02	-.03	-.04	.012	.020
Hb & Wife do equal child care	-.09	-.00	.05	.05	.05	.06	.02	.05	.009	.013
Hb does most child care	.02	.02	-.01	.00	-.05	-.03	.03	-.02	.003	-.001
Hb does all child care	.10	.01	-.03	-.05	-.10	-.05	.01	-.01	.012	.018
Hb and Wife Both Work Full-Time										
Wife does all child care	-.01	-.03	-.04	-.03	-.09	-.06	-.01	-.04	.006	.012
Wife does most child care	.00	-.05	.02	.01	.02	.01	-.02	.00	.008	.008
Hb & Wife do equal child care	-.05	.00	.07	.06	.12	.09	.02	.02	.004	.012
Hb does most child care	.04	.01	-.03	.00	-.09	-.05	-.01	-.01	.002	.017
Hb does all child care	.07	.05	-.07	-.03	-.16	-.11	.00	-.02	.020	.054
Division of Housework										
Wife does all housework	-.02	-.05	-.04	-.04	-.09	-.06	-.04	-.01	.005	.012
Wife does most housework	-.04	-.09	.00	.01	.01	-.02	-.03	.00	.001	-.011
Hb & Wife do equal housework	-.04	.06	.00	.02	.04	.04	.04	-.02	.006	.019
Hb does most housework	.04	.02	-.04	-.02	-.11	-.09	.00	-.02	.005	.017
Hb does all housework	.13	.05	-.08	-.04	-.19	-.10	.01	-.01	.009	.033

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 6 (Continued)

	FEMALES									
	Race[a]	Working[h] mother	Father's[c] educ.	Mother's[c] educ.	Acad.[d] abil.	College[e] plans	Polit.[f] orient.	Relig.[g] commit.	R^2, by 4 fam. backg. vars.	R^2, by 4 fam. backg. + 4 pers.ch.vars.
Division of Child Care										
Hb Works, Wife doesn't										
Wife does all child care	.06	-.01	-.08	-.10	-.09	-.10	-.08	.03	.012	.024
Wife does most child care	-.13	-.06	.07	.03	.09	.03	-.07	.06	.013	.029
Hb & Wife do equal child care	-.10	.00	.03	.03	.06	.03	.03	-.06	.008	.014
Hb does most child care	.05	.02	.00	.01	-.04	.01	.02	-.06	.001	.008
Hb does all child care	.10	.00	-.04	-.04	-.08	-.03	.02	-.02	.011	.019
Hb and Wife Both Work Full-Time										
Wife does all child care	.07	.02	-.13	-.10	-.18	-.15	-.09	.07	.028	.102
Wife does most child care	.03	.00	-.05	-.05	-.05	-.07	-.12	.12	.006	.055
Hb & Wife do equal child care	-.08	-.01	.12	.10	.17	.16	.11	-.02	.010	.040
Hb does most child care	.10	.05	-.03	-.02	-.06	-.02	.04	.00	.031	.020
Hb does all child care	.10	.07	-.07	-.06	-.15	-.09	.01	-.02	.021	.033
Division of Housework										
Wife does all housework	.03	.03	-.15	-.14	-.19	-.23	-.16	.10	.018	.058
Wife does most housework	-.02	.02	-.06	-.05	-.03	-.11	-.15	.15	.002	.027
Hb & Wife do equal housework	-.01	.02	.09	.08	.12	.15	.12	-.05	.018	.053
Hb does most housework	.13	.05	-.02	-.02	-.06	-.01	.04	-.02	.012	.016
Hb does all housework	.13	.05	-.07	-.06	-.12	-.06	.02	-.03	.014	.032

Table 6 (Continued)

Note: Entries, except in the last two columns, are Pearson product-moment correlation coefficients averaged over 1976, 1977, 1978, and 1979. These coefficients are based on approximately 6000 males and 6000 females. With an N of this size correlations of .04 are significant at the .05 level and correlations of .05 at the .01 level, assuming a design effect of 1.5 and therefore an effective N of 4000.

[a] 0=White; 1=Black

[b] 1=No (Mother did not have a paid job half-time or more); 4=Yes, all or nearly all of the time

[c] 1=Completed grade school or less; 6=graduate or professional school after college

[d] 1=Far below average; 7=Far above average

[e] 1=Definitely won't (graduate from four-year college program); 4=Definitely will

[f] 1=Very conservative; 5=Very liberal; 6=Radical

[g] 1=Never (attend)/not important; 4=(Attend) About once a week or more/very important

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 7

Correlations Between Division-of-Responsibilities Variables and Sex of Respondents, 1979 Data

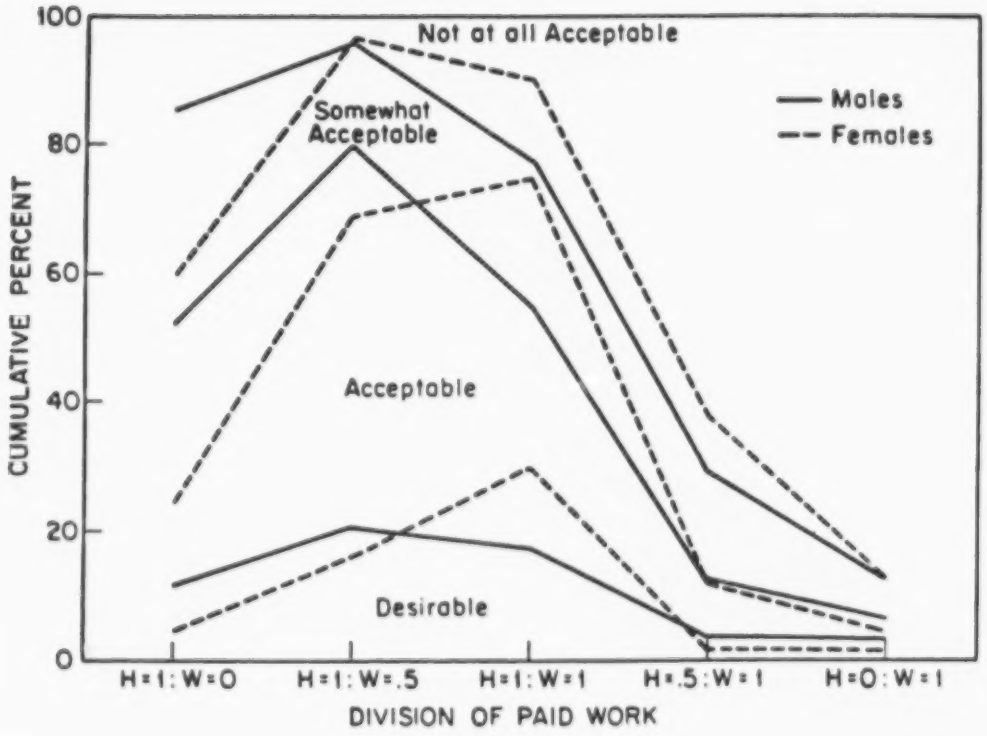
	Presence of Preschool Children	
	No	Yes
Division of Paid Work		
Hb full, Wife not	-.32	-.11
Hb full, Wife half	-.10	.13
Hf + Wife full	.23	.02
Hb half, Wife full	.04	.03
Hb not, Wife full	-.03	.00

	Paid Employment	
	Husband only	Both
Division of Child Care		
Wife all	-.12	-.20
Wife most	-.01	-.09
Both equally	.11	.19
Hb most	-.05	-.06
Hb all	-.06	-.08

	Paid Employment	
	Husband only	Both
Division of Housework:	(1975 data)	
Wife all	.09	-.16
Wife most	.05	-.08
Both equally	-.04	.16
Hb most	-.04	-.02
Hb all	-.04	-.04

Figure 1

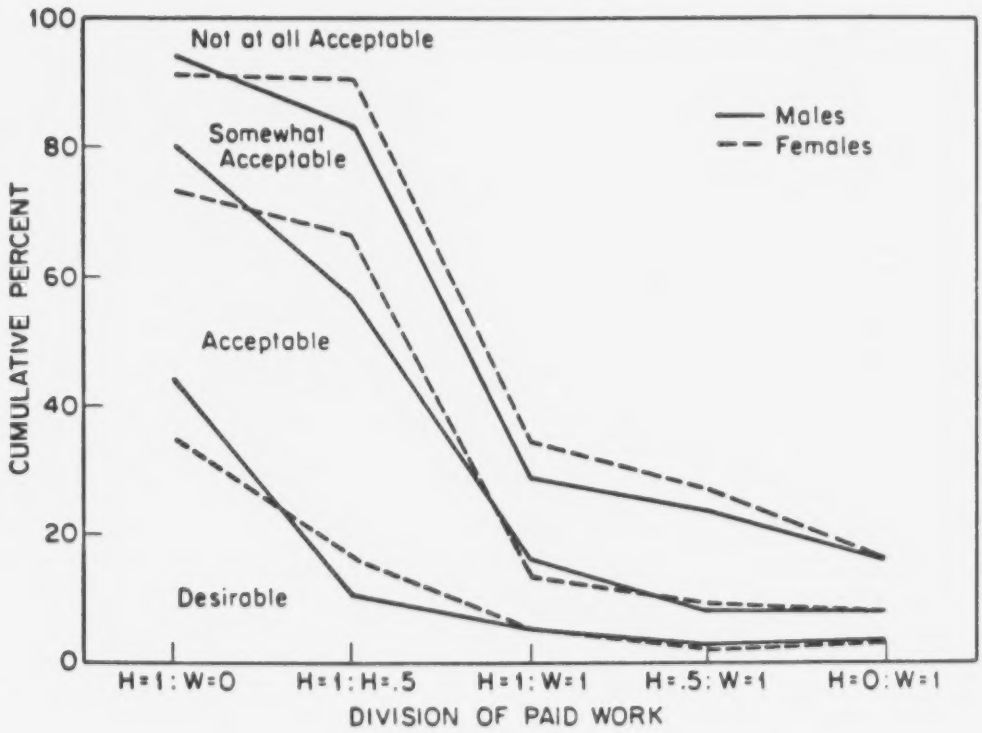
Preferred Division of Paid Work (No Children)



Note: The bottom lines trace the percentages of males and females who rate each arrangement as desirable, the intermediate lines the cumulative percentages who rate each arrangement as either desirable or acceptable, the top lines the cumulative percentages who rate each arrangement as either desirable, acceptable, or somewhat acceptable. 1979 Data is displayed in tables 1-4 and 6.

Figure 2

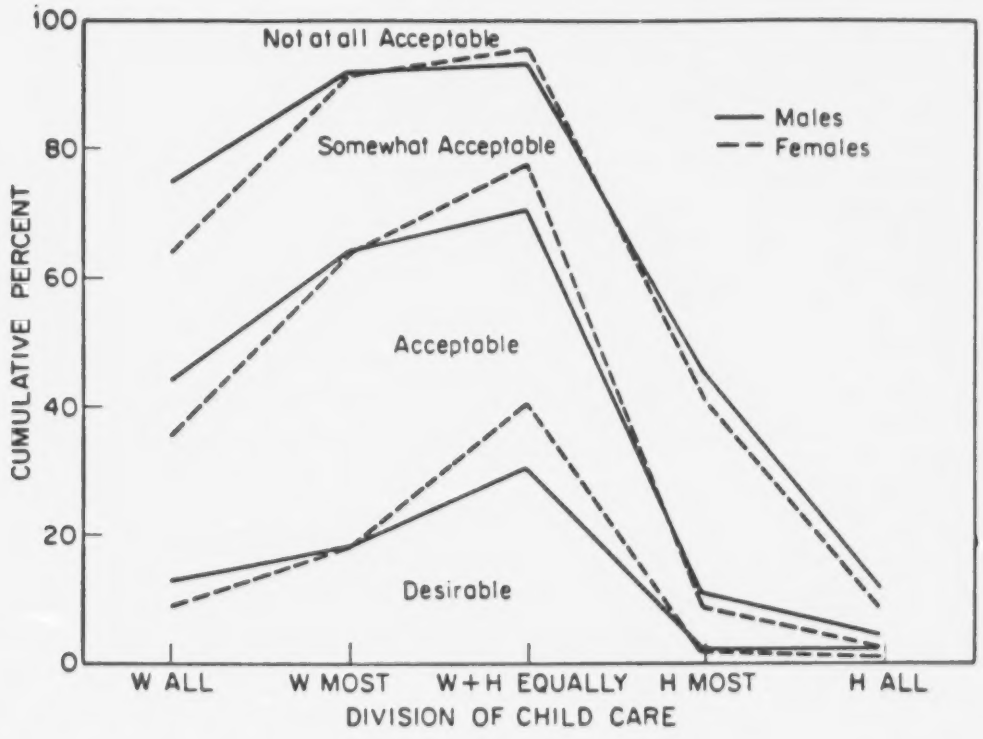
Preferred Division of Paid Work (Preschool Children)



Note: See note to Figure 1.

Figure 3

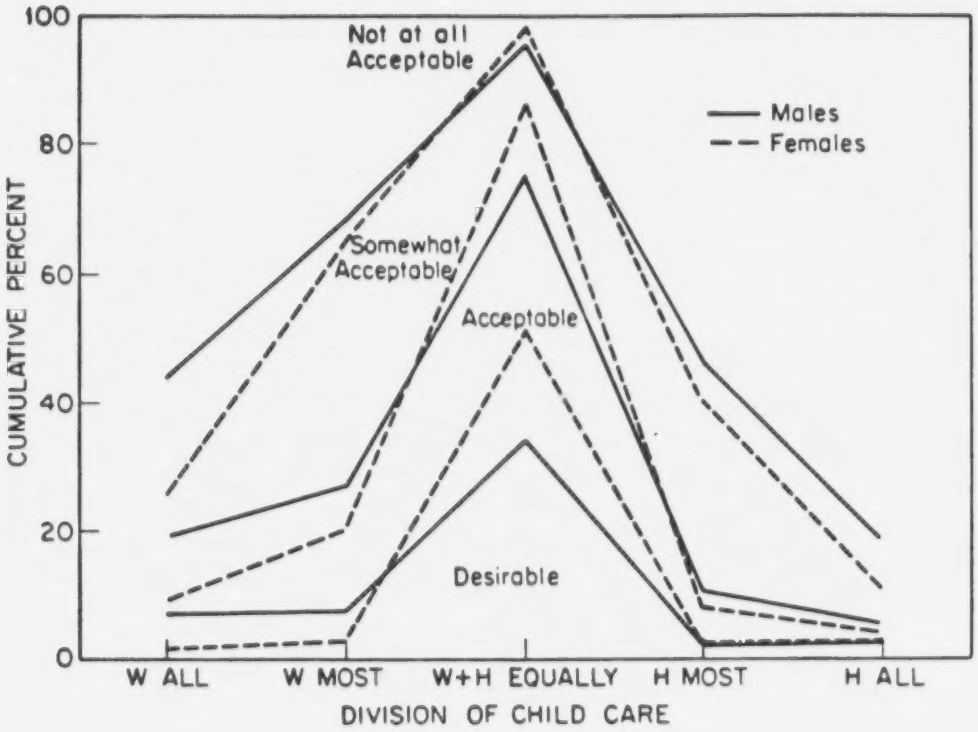
Preferred Division of Child Care (Husband Works Full-Time)



Note: See note to Figure 1.

Figure 4

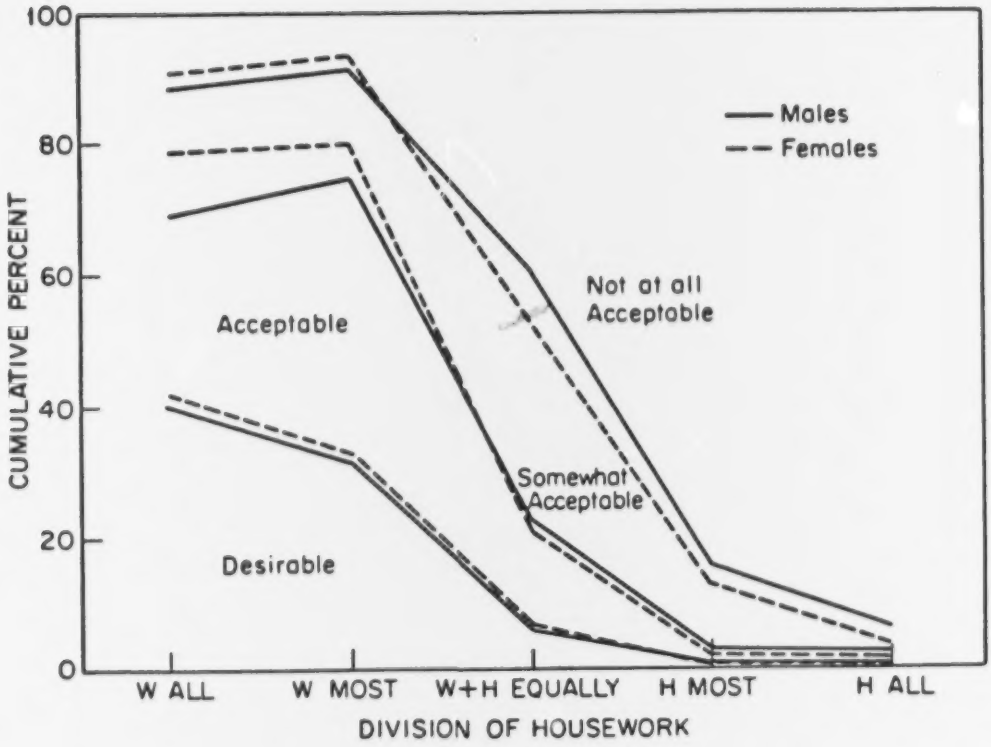
Preferred Division of Child Care (Husband and Wife Work Full-Time)



Note: See note to Figure 1.

Figure 5

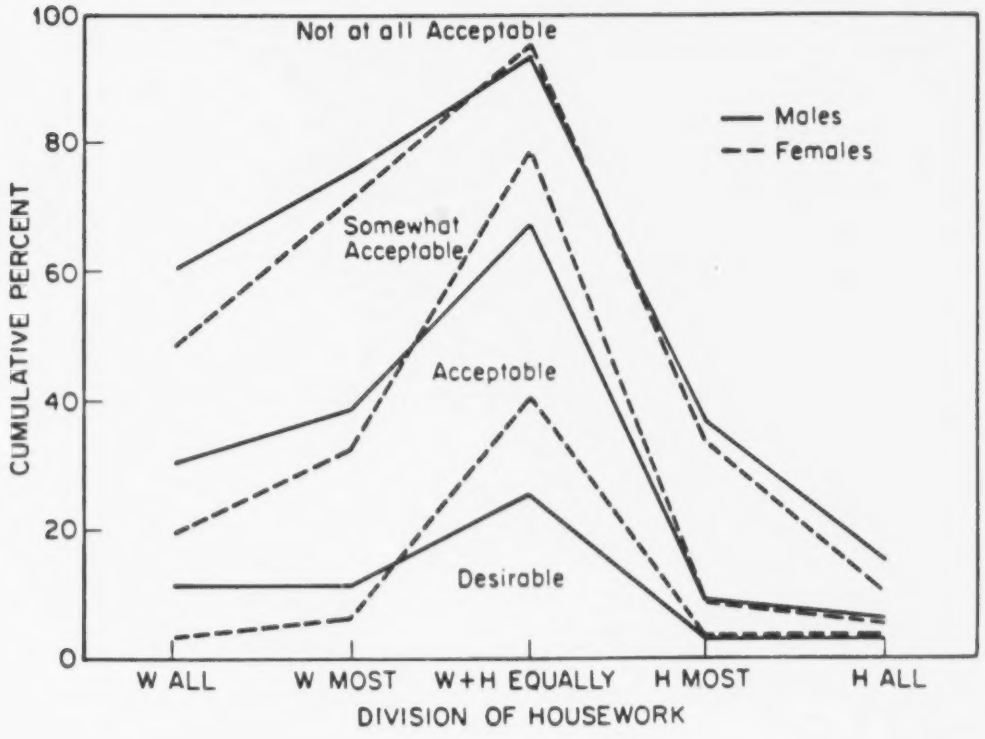
Preferred Division of Housework (Husband Works Full-Time)



Note: Data used in this figure are from 1975 sample. See note to Figure 1.

Figure 6

Preferred Division of Housework (Husband and Wife Work Full-Time)



Note: See note to Figure 1.

APPENDIX A

Research Design and Procedures*

The basic research design involves annual data collections from high school seniors during the spring of each year, beginning with the class of 1975. Each data collection takes place in approximately 125-130 public and private high schools selected to provide an accurate cross section of high school seniors throughout the coterminous United States. The design also provides for the longitudinal study of a subsample from each class of participating seniors; but since the focus of the present analysis is exclusively on the data collected from seniors in 1978, the follow-up procedures will not be discussed here.

One limitation in the design is that it does not include in the target population those young men and women who drop out of high school before graduation (or before the last few months of the senior year, to be more precise). This excludes a relatively small proportion of each age cohort—between 15 and 20 percent (Golladay, 1976, 1977)—though not an unimportant segment, since we know that certain behaviors such as illicit drug use (Johnston, 1973) and delinquency (Bachman, O'Malley, and Johnston, 1978) tend to be higher than average in this group. For the purposes of estimating characteristics of the entire age group, the omission of high school dropouts does introduce certain biases; however, their small proportion sets outer limits on the bias.

Sampling Procedures. The procedure for securing a nationwide sample of high school seniors is a multi-stage one. Stage 1 is the selection of particular geographic areas, Stage 2 is the selection of one or more high schools in each area, and Stage 3 is the selection of seniors within each high school.

Stage 1: Geographic Areas. The geographic areas used in this study are the primary sampling units (PSUs) developed by the Sampling Section of the Survey Research Center for use in the Center's nationwide interview studies. These consist of 74 primary areas throughout the coterminous United States—including the 12 largest metropolitan areas, which contain about 30 percent of the nation's population. Of the 62 other primary areas, 10 are in the Northeast, 18 in the North Central area, 24 in the South, and 10 in the West. Because these same PSUs are used for personal interview studies by the Survey Research Center (SRC), local field representatives can be assigned to administer the data collections in practically all schools.

Stage 2: Schools. In the major metropolitan areas more than one high school is often included in the sampling design; in most other sampling areas a single high school is sampled. In all cases, the selections of high schools are made such that the probability of drawing a school is proportionate to the size of its senior class. The larger the senior class (according to recent records), the higher the selection

---

*A more extensive description of the research design and procedures may be found in Bachman and Johnston (1978).

probability assigned to the high school. When a sampled school is unwilling to participate, a replacement school as similar to it as possible is selected from the same geographic area.

Stage 3: Students. Within each selected school, up to about 400 seniors may be included in the data collection. In schools with fewer than 400 seniors, the usual procedure is to include all of them in the data collection. In larger schools, a subset of seniors is selected either by randomly sampling classrooms or by some other random method that is convenient for the school and judged to be unbiased. Sample weights are assigned to each respondent so as to take account of variations in the sizes of samples from one school to another, as well as the (smaller) variations in selection probabilities occuring at the earlier stages of sampling.

The three-stage sampling procedure described above yielded the number of participating schools and students indicated in the table below.

Sample Sizes and Student Response Rates:
Senior Class of 1978

Number of Public Schools	111
Number of Private Schools	20
Total Number of Schools	131
Actual Number of Participating Students	18924
Number of Weighted Cases (Total)*	18924
Student Response Rates**	83%

*Sample weights are assigned to each respondent to correct for unequal probabilities of selection which arise in the multi-stage sampling procedure.

**The student response rate is derived by dividing the attained sample by the target sample (both based on weighted numbers of cases). The target sample is based upon listings provided by schools. Since such listings may fail to take account of recent student attrition, the actual response rate may be slightly underestimated.

Advance Contact with Teachers and Students. The local SRC representative is instructed to visit each participating school two weeks ahead of the actual date of administration. This visit serves as an occasion to meet the teachers whose classes will be affected and to provide them with a brochure describing the study, a brief set of guidelines about the questionnaire administration, and a supply of flyers to be distributed to the students a week to 10 days in advance of the questionnaire administration. The guidelines to the teachers include a suggested announcement to students at the time the flyers are distributed.

From the students' standpoint, the first information about the study usually consists of the teacher's announcement and the short descriptive flyer. In announcing the study, the teachers are asked to stress that the questionnaires used in the survey are not tests, and that there are no right or wrong answers. The flyer tells students that they will be invited to participate in the study, points out that their participation is strictly voluntary, and stresses confidentiality (including a reference to the fact that the Monitoring the Future project has a special government grant of confidentiality which allows their answers to be protected). The flyer also serves as an informative document which the students can show to their parents.

Questionnaire Administrations. The questionnaire administration in each school is carried out by the local SRC representatives and their assistants, following standardized procedures detailed in a project instruction manual. The questionnaires are administered in classrooms during normal class periods whenever possible, although circumstances in some schools require the use of larger group administrations. Teachers are not asked to do anything more than introduce the SRC staff members and (in most cases) remain in the classroom to help guarantee an orderly atmosphere for the survey. Teachers are urged to avoid walking around the room, so that students may feel free to write their answers without fear of being observed.

The actual process of completing the questionnaires is quite straightforward. Respondents are given sharpened pencils and asked to use them because the questionnaires are designed for automatic scanning. Most respondents can finish within a 45-minute class period; for those who cannot, an effort is made to provide a few minutes of additional time.

Procedures for Protecting Confidentiality. In any study that relies on voluntary reporting of drug use or other illegal acts, it is essential to develop procedures which guarantee the confidentiality of such reports. It is also desirable that these procedures be described adequately to respondents so that they are comfortable about providing honest answers.

We noted that the first information given to students about the survey consists of a descriptive flyer stressing confidentiality and voluntary participation. This theme is repeated at the start of the questionnaire administration. Each participating student is instructed to read the message on the cover of the questionnaire, which stresses the importance and value of the study, notes that answers will be kept strictly confidential, states that the study is completely voluntary, and tells the student "If there is any question you or your parents would find objectionable for any reason, just leave it blank." The instructions then point out that in a few months a summary of nationwide results will be mailed to all

participants and also that a follow-up questionnaire will be sent to some students after a year. The cover message explains that these are the reasons for asking that name and address be written on a special form which will be removed from the questionnaire and handed in separately. The message also points out that the two different code numbers (one on the questionnaire and one on the tear-out form) cannot be matched except by a special computer tape at The University of Michigan.

APPENDIX B

Item Wordings

(From the 1979 Monitoring the Future Questionnaire)

The questions in the next column ask you to imagine different kinds of married life that you might have. We want you to think about different ways you might share responsibilities for working, taking care of the home, and taking care of children. Please indicate how acceptable for you each of the different arrangements would be.

8. **Imagine you are married and have no children.**

   How would you feel about each of the following working arrangements? (Mark one circle for each line.)

	Not At All Acceptable	Somewhat Acceptable	Acceptable	Neutral
a. Husband works full-time, wife doesn't work	①	②	③	④
b. Husband works full-time, wife works about half-time	①	②	③	④
c. Both work full-time	①	②	③	④
d. Both work about half-time	①	②	③	④
e. Husband works about half-time, wife works full-time	①	②	③	④
f. Husband doesn't work, wife works full-time	①	②	③	④

9. **Imagine you are married and have one or more pre-school children.**

   How would you feel about each of the following working arrangements? (Mark one circle for each line.)

a. Husband works full-time, wife doesn't work	①	②	③	④
b. Husband works full-time, wife works about half-time	①	②	③	④
c. Both work full-time	①	②	③	④
d. Both work about half-time	①	②	③	④
e. Husband works about half-time, wife works full-time	①	②	③	④
f. Husband doesn't work, wife works full-time	①	②	③	④

10. **Imagine you are married and have one or more pre-school children. Imagine also that the husband is working full-time and the wife does not have a job outside the home.**

    How would you feel about each of these arrangements for the day-to-day care of the child(ren)?

a. Wife does all child care	①	②	③	④
b. Wife does most of it	①	②	③	④
c. Both do it equally	①	②	③	④
d. Husband does most of it	①	②	③	④
e. Husband does all of it	①	②	③	④

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The following questions ask you to imagine different kinds of married life that you might have. We want you to think about different ways you might share responsibilities for working, taking care of the home, and taking care of children. Please indicate how acceptable for you each of the different arrangements would be.

10. **Imagine both you and your spouse are working full-time.**

How would you feel about each of these arrangements for doing things like cooking, cleaning, and laundry? (Mark one circle for each line.)

	Not At All Acceptable	Somewhat Acceptable	Acceptable	Desirable
a. Wife does all cooking, cleaning, laundry	①	②	③	④
b. Wife does most of it	①	②	③	④
c. Both do it equally	①	②	③	④
d. Husband does most of it	①	②	③	④
e. Husband does all of it	①	②	③	④

11. **Imagine you are married and have one or more pre-school children and both you and your spouse have to work full-time.**

How would you feel about each of these arrangements for the day-to-day care of the child(ren) after working hours and on week-ends?

a. Wife does all of it	①	②	③	④
b. Wife does most of it	①	②	③	④
c. Both do it equally	①	②	③	④
d. Husband does most of it	①	②	③	④
e. Husband does all of it	①	②	③	④

(From the 1975 Questionnaire)

These next questions ask you to imagine that you are married. We want you to think about different ways you might share responsibilities for working, taking care of the home, and taking care of children. Please indicate how acceptable for you each of the different arrangements would be.

14. **Suppose you were married, and in your family the husband was working full-time and the wife did not have a job outside the home.**

How would you feel about each of these arrangements for doing things like cooking, cleaning, and laundry? (Mark one circle for each line.)

	Not At All Acceptable	Somewhat Acceptable	Acceptable	Desirable
a. Wife does all cooking, cleaning, laundry	①	②	③	④
b. Wife does most of it	①	②	③	④
c. Both do it equally	①	②	③	④
d. Husband does most of it	①	②	③	④
e. Husband does all of it	①	②	③	④

REFERENCES

Alexander, K. L., & Eckland, B. K. Sex differences in the educational attainment process. American Sociological Review, 1974, 39, 668-682.

Angrist, S. S., Mickelsen, R., & Penna, A. N. Sex differences in sex-role conceptions and family orientation of high school students. Journal of Youth and Adolescence, 1977, 6, 179-186.

Bachman, J. G., & Johnston, L. D. The Monitoring the Future project design and procedures (Monitoring the Future Occasional Paper 1). Ann Arbor: The Institute for Social Research, 1978.

Bailyn, L. Notes on the role of choice in the psychology of professional women. Daedalus, 1964, 93, 700-710.

Bayer, A. E. Sexist students in American colleges: a descriptive note. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1975, 37, 391-397.

Bednarzik, R. W., & Klein, D. P. Labor force trends: a synthesis and analysis. Monthly Labor Review, 1977, 100, 3-11.

Blood, R. O., & Hamblin, R. L. The effect of the wife's employment on the family power structure. Social Forces, 1958, 36, 347-352.

Blood, R. O., & Wolfe, D. M. Husbands and wives. New York: Free Press, 1960.

Bowen, W. G., & Finegan, T. A. The economics of labor force participation. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1969.

Christensen, H. T. Lifetime family and occupational role projections of high school students. Marriage and Family Living, 1961, 23, 181-183.

Dunn,M. S. Marriage role expectations of adolescents. Marriage and Family Living, 1960, 22, 99-111.

Ericksen, J. A., Yancey, W. L., & Ericksen, E. P. The division of family roles. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1979, 41, 301-313.

Farkas, G. Cohort, age and period effects upon the employment of white females: evidence for 1957-1968. Demography, 1977, 14, 33-42.

Glick, P. C. Updating the life cycle of the family. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1977, 39, 3-15.

Hershey, M. R., & Sullivan, J. L. Sex role attitudes, identities, and political ideology. Sex Roles, 1977, 3, 37-57.

Hoffman, L. W., & Nye, F. I. Working mothers. San Francisco, Calif.: Jossey-Bass, 1974.

Holmstrom, L. L. The two-career family. Cambridge, Mass.: Schenkman, 1972.

Hout, M., & Morgan, W. R. Race and sex variations in the causes of the expected attainments of high school seniors. American Journal of Sociology, 1975, 81, 364-394.

Kiesler, C. A., Collins, B. E., & Miller, N. Attitude change. New York: Wiley, 1969.

Kish, L. Survey sampling. New York: Wiley, 1965.

Kohlberg, L. A. A cognitive developmental analysis of children's sex-role concepts and attitudes. In E. Maccoby (Ed.), The development of sex differences. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1966.

Kreps, J. Sex in the marketplace: American women at work. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1971.

Lipman-Blumen, J. & Tickamyer, A. R. Sex roles in transition: A ten-year perspective. In A. Inkeles, J. Coleman, & N. Smelser (Eds.), Annual review of sociology. Palo Alto, Calif.: Annual Reviews, Inc., Vol. 1, 1975.

Macke, A. S., & Morgan, W. R. Maternal employment, race, and work orientation of high school girls. Social Forces, 1978, 57, 187-204.

Mason, K. O. & Bumpass, L. L. U.S. women's sex-role ideology, 1970. American Journal of Sociology, 1975, 80, 1212-1219.

Mason, K. O., Czajka, J. L., & Arber, S. Change in U.S. women's sex role attitudes, 1964-1974. American Sociological Review, 1976, 41, 573-596.

Meissner, M., Humphreys, E. W., Meis, S. M., & Scheu, W. J. No exit for wives: Sexual division of labour and the cumulation of household demands. Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology, 1975, 12, 424-439.

Nelson, H. Y. & Goldman, P. R. Attitudes of high school students and young adults toward the gainful employment of married women. The Family Coordinator, 1969, 18, 251-255.

Osmond, M. W., & Martin, P. Y. Sex and sexism: a comparison of male and female sex-role attitudes. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1975, 37, 744-758.

Parelius, A. P. Emerging sex-role attitudes, expectations, and strains among college women. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1975, 37, 146-153.

Parsons, T., & Bales, R. F. (Eds.). Family socialization and interaction process. Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press, 1955.

Payne, R. Adolescents' attitudes toward the working wife. Marriage and Family Living, 1956, 18, 345-348.

Pleck, J. H. The work-family role system. Social Problems, 1977, 24, 417-427.

Rainwater, L. Family design. Chicago: Aldine, 1965.

Rebecca, M., Hefner, R., & Oleshansky, B. A model of sex-role transcendence. Journal of Social Issues, 1976, 32, 197-206.

Robinson, J. P. How Americans use time. New York: Praeger, 1977.

Safilios-Rothschild, C. Sex role socialization and sex discrimination: A synthesis and critique of the literature. Final report to the National Institute of Education, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1979.

Scanzoni, J. H. The black family in modern society. Boston, Mass.: Allyn and Bacon, 1971.

Schuman, H., & Johnson, M. P. Attitudes and behavior. In A. Inkeles, J. Coleman, and N. Smelser (Eds.), Annual review of sociology. Palo Alto, California: Annual Reviews Inc., Vol. 2, 1976.

Sewell, W. H., & Shah, V. P. Socioeconomic status, intelligence, and the attainment of higher education. Sociology of Education, 1967, 40, 1-23.

Smith-Lovin, L., & Tickamyer, A. R. Nonrecursive models of labor force participation, fertility behavior and sex role attitudes. American Sociological Review, 1978, 43, 541-557.

Sweet, J. A. Women in the labor force. New York: Seminar Press, 1973.

Thornton, A., & Freedman, D. Changes in the sex role attitudes of women, 1962-1977: Evidence from a panel study. American Sociological Review, 1979, 44, 831-842.

Treiman, D. J., & Terrell, K. Women, work, and wages: trends in the female occupational structure. In K. Land & S. Spilerman (Eds.), Social indicator models. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1975.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Statistical abstracts of the United States: 1976 (97th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1976.

Waite, L. J., & Stolzenberg, R. M. Intended childbearing and labor force participation of young women: Insights from nonrecursive models. American Sociological Review, 1976, 41, 235-252.

Weil, M. W. An analysis of the factors influencing married women's actual and planned work participation. American Sociological Review, 1961, 26, 91-96.

Wicker, A. W. Attitudes versus actions: The relationship of verbal and overt behavioral responses to attitude objects. Journal of Social Issues, 1969, 25, 41-78.

Willie, C. V., & Greenblatt, S. L. Four "classic" studies of power relationships in black families: A review and look to the future. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1978, 40, 691-694.

Young, M. D., & Willmott, P. The symmetrical family. New York: Pantheon Books, 1973.

ISR

SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN